

174
12/13/86

Ireland lodges official protest

TEL AVIV (R) — Irish Defence Minister Patrick O'Toole protested to Israel on Friday over the death of an Irish U.N. peacekeeping soldier killed in Lebanon last week by Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen. Irish Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin expressed "sorrow" at the incident but said Israel had no plan to discontinue its self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, nor to allow U.N. peacekeeping forces to deploy down to the international border, Israeli officials said. William O'Brien, serving with the United Nations Truce Supervision Force in Lebanon (UNTSF), was shot dead last Saturday by gunfire from a position of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), which polices the "security zone" north of Israel's border with Lebanon. After an hour-long meeting with Mr. Rabin on Friday, Mr. O'Toole told Reuters: "I told Mr. Rabin that we protested strongly at this incident. He accepted my feelings on the matter without admitting responsibility by the SLA for the incident."

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Soviet plane crashes in E. Berlin

EAST BERLIN (R) — A Soviet aircraft crashed on Friday as it was about to land at East Berlin's Schoenefeld airport, the official news agency ADN reported. ADN said the Aeroflot TU-134 aircraft was on a flight from Minsk in the Soviet Union to the East German capital. In a brief report, the agency said the plane crashed near the East Berlin suburb of Reinharz, just east of the airport. ADN gave no details of casualties.

Poll shows Americans oppose Iran deal

TEL AVIV (AP) — According to a public opinion poll published Friday, 65 per cent of the American public and 40 per cent of the Israeli public oppose the United States' involvement in the Iran arms deal. The poll, conducted for the Los Angeles Times and the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot, showed 22 per cent of the Americans surveyed approve of U.S. involvement in the affair, along with 49 per cent of the polled Israelis. The others had no opinion. The pollsters questioned 798 Jewish Israeli adults in Israel and 1,800 American adults in the United States, Yediot reported.

Karpov: U.S. scandal will not affect superpower talks

ATHENS (R) — Chief Soviet arms negotiator Viktor Karpov said Friday he did not think the arms-for-Iran scandal in Washington would affect future East-West summit talks. On disarmament, Mr. Karpov told a press conference here: "We estimate that this crisis of arms to Iran will not hide from public opinion in the United States the real problems connected with disarmament."

Muslim envoys threaten to quit mission

BEIRUT (R) — Two U.S. Muslim leaders said Friday they would leave Lebanon for the United States Saturday unless they received word from the kidnappers of 19 foreign hostages. "We are planning to leave Beirut tomorrow afternoon to the U.S. unless we hear from the contacts tonight," Mohammad Mehdi, secretary-general of the New York-based National Council on Islamic Affairs, told a news conference. Mr. Mehdi and his colleague Dale Shaheen have talked to officials and Muslim leaders in Lebanon and Syria during the past two weeks, seeking release of the 19 foreign hostages, who include seven Americans.

Japan invites Waldheim

VIENNA (AP) — President Kurt Waldheim's office said Friday he had been asked to visit Japan, in what appeared to be the first official invitation from abroad since Dr. Waldheim, accused by the Jewish Zionist movement of hiding a Nazi past, took office in June. Spokeswoman Irmgard Klein told AP that Dr. Waldheim had been invited but was unlikely to go before 1988.

INSIDE

- * Thatcher under renewed pressure over U.S. raids on Libya, page 2
- * Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues begins talks today, page 3
- * Abu Jaber comments on U.S. policy, page 4
- * Extending a helping hand to Sudan, page 5
- * Edberg and Jarry advance in Masters, page 6
- * Optimistic mood prevails at OPEC meeting, page 7
- * French students vow to continue playing active role, page 8

Shelling rocks Beirut camps as peace efforts remain deadlocked

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Tank and mortar fire shook two battered refugee camps on Friday as mediators kept up a mission to end more than 10 weeks of fighting between Palestinians and the Shi'ite Amal militia.

Heavy explosions boomed from Beirut's Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps, nearby residents reported. Palestinian sources quoted by Reuters said two people were killed and four were wounded in Bourj Al Barajneh as Amal militiamen pounded it with tank and mortar fire. "The shelling forced refugees to take cover in basements at a relative lull," one source said. In South Lebanon, Palestinian and Amal fighters remained in combat positions at Maghdousheh village, near Sidon, and at the Palestinian camp of Rashidiyeh, near Tyre. Palestinians said Amal fighters killed at least one person and wounded two when they fired on refugees who ventured out of Rashidiyeh to pick vegetables in a nearby field. Iran's peace drive stalled on Wednesday amid disputes on the

extent of a promised Palestinian pullback from Maghdousheh and the quantity of supplies Amal had pledged to allow into Rashidiyeh. Iranian embassy sources, cited by the daily newspaper As Safir, said Amal and the Palestinians had been told firmly to observe the ceasefire, though no deadline had been set. An Iranian diplomat formally denied the report. But both sides told Reuters the other had received an Iranian warning. "We have heard the reports and we deny them in general," Charge d'Affaires Mahmoud Nourani told Reuters. "Contacts are still under way to solve the problem." Several Iranian negotiators left Beirut for Damascus on Thursday to brief Iran's deputy foreign minister, Hossein Sheikh Al Islam, on latest problems with the ceasefire. However, Damascus embassy representative Issa Tabataba

remained inside Rashidiyeh for a third day in what an Iranian official said was a bid to reassure residents there. Iranian mediation has reduced the intensity of fighting, but Amal is still besieging refugee camps near Tyre and Beirut, where Palestinians said living conditions are deteriorating. "Skin diseases are beginning to spread among adults and children because of the severe shortage of water," a statement by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said. "Food is running scarce, especially flour and milk."

The DFLP said 350 houses had been demolished in Bourj Al Barajneh, in Beirut's southern outskirts. Only one floor of Haifa Hospital, the camp's sole medical facility, was still functioning and its operating theatre had been hit many times during the fighting, the statement added. It put Palestinian casualties at 50 killed and 295 wounded during the last 40 days of fighting at

(Continued on page 3)
UNICEF gives \$75,000 to 'camp war' refugees, page 2

Top Abu Nidal lieutenant among those killed in Israeli raid on Nahr Al Bared

BEIRUT (Agencies) — One of the top lieutenants of the extremist Abu Nidal group was among those killed in an Israeli air raid on Palestinian bases in north Lebanon, police reported Friday. Abu Nidal's Fateh-Revolutionary Council vowed in a statement issued in the Nahr Al Bared refugee camp outside the northern port of Tripoli to avenge the death of Mohammad Selim by "striking wherever Israelis may be." Selim, Abu Nidal's commander in Syrian-controlled north Lebanon, was better known as Abu Imad. Police said nine people were killed and 21 wounded in Thursday's air raid, the 16th on Palestinian bases in Lebanon this year, AP said. Security sources quoted by Reuters said 15 people were killed in the attack. The headquarters of Abu Nidal's faction on the outskirts of the camp took the brunt of the four-minute Israeli raid just north of Tripoli. Police said Abu Nidal's men banned Lebanese rescue teams as well as newsmen and photographers from reaching the rocketed headquarters, saying the area was filled with delayed action bombs dropped by the Israeli jets. The Israeli command in Tel Aviv said the targeted bases were operated by Abu Nidal's faction as well as the Syrian-backed Fateh Uprising Faction led by Saeed Musa (Abu Musa). Sources quoted by Reuters said the Israeli jets met heavy anti-aircraft fire from Palestinian fighters and Syrian troops deployed near the Nahr Al Bared camp. Casualties included Lebanese and Palestinian civilians, including four Lebanese killed when a delayed-action rocket exploded almost half an hour after the raid, they said.

The bodies of four Palestinian guerrillas lay beside a position of another Damascus-based group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Two other PFLP posts were devastated in the attack. The raid near Nahr Al Bared, 25 kilometres from the Syrian border, was the 16th Israeli air strike this year on targets in Lebanon, mainly Palestinian camps. On Dec. 4, Israeli warships hit Palestinian positions in South Lebanon.

Earlier on Thursday, the Israeli army reported that several Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets fell on northern Galilee. An army spokesman said the 122-mm rockets caused no injuries or damage and were apparently fired from north of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" along the border in southern Lebanon. Earlier on Thursday, the Israeli army reported that several Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets fell on northern Galilee. An army spokesman said the 122-mm rockets caused no injuries or damage and were apparently fired from north of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" along the border in southern Lebanon.

Mubarak to visit Italy after securing French support

ROME (Agencies) — Premier Bettino Craxi and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will meet in Milan on Sunday, the premier's office announced Friday. The announcement was made after Mr. Craxi met briefly with the Egyptian ambassador. No other details were made available. In Paris, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has told President Mubarak that France would spare no effort to help contain the economic crisis afflicting the Arab World's most populous nation. Mr. Chirac made the pledge during a banquet at the French Foreign Ministry on the second day of Mr. Mubarak's state visit to Paris, the first by an Egyptian leader since 1952. "We have spared no effort and we will not spare any further effort on a bilateral level to help your country overcome, with respect for its internal equilibrium, the combination of difficulties which brake its efforts," Mr. Chirac said. He also praised Egypt's role in the Middle East, saying only through recognition of Israel's right to exist and respect for Palestinian rights could peace be achieved. "These are the principles that are also defended by France, which stands by your side in your indefatigable search for a just and durable peace," Mr. Chirac said.

Mr. Mubarak has also discussed Middle East peace efforts with President Francois Mitterrand, but it is his country's financial crisis that has so far dominated his three-day state visit. French officials said earlier that Paris had already intervened to support Egypt's request for stand-by credits from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). They said France backed Cairo's position that the IMF should be more sensitive to the social effects of the austerity plan it is demanding as a condition for providing emergency credits.

Pretoria launches sweeping crackdown

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Police said they launched a crackdown on opposition groups Friday and arrested activists, but some details could not be reported under new censorship rules. National police commissioner Johan Coetzee said the detentions resulted from information that the African National Congress (ANC) movement and others planned "deeds of terror countrywide during the festive season." Colleagues said Zwelakhe Simu, the black editor of the New Nation newspaper in Johannesburg, and several executive members of the national education crisis committee, an anti-apartheid group, were in detention. The independent South African press association quoted trade union spokesman as reporting the detention of at least three union officials. In Lusaka, the ANC urged journalists to ignore the latest press restrictions imposed by the South African government. The ANC issued a statement saying that the latest restrictions demonstrate that the government "has failed completely to suppress the struggle in our country."

"The time has come that the mass media inside South Africa defy the racist regime and carry out its tasks of keeping the public informed about the reality of the situation inside our country."

Edward Kennedy begins visit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy began a two-day visit to Jordan with a tour of Petra, informed sources told the Jordan Times on Friday.

Mr. Kennedy, who arrived here from the occupied West Bank on Friday morning, is scheduled to meet with a number of senior Jordanian officials, according to the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. The Massachusetts Democrat's visit to the Kingdom comes 48 hours after two U.S. Democratic senators, Jesse Bingham and Carl Levin, left Amman for Israel on Thursday. The two lawmakers arrived here from Tel Aviv on a three-day stop over after which they returned to Israel. After their stay there they are expected to head for Cairo.

Mr. Kennedy is due to leave Amman for Cairo on Sunday. It was not immediately known whether Mr. Kennedy will return to Tel Aviv after he ends his visit to Cairo.

Mr. Kennedy, who spent three days in Israel, said in Tel Aviv on Thursday that Washington-Tel Aviv relations remained good despite the current controversy over the secret arms deal with Iran and the transfer of funds to the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

The senator became chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee in January. On Friday Mr. Kennedy promised Soviet immigrants to keep trying to help their relatives leave the Soviet Union, an immigrants spokesman said.

Mr. Kennedy met for an hour with Avital Shekharansky and the relatives of Soviet "refuseniks" who have been denied permission to emigrate, spokesman Yuri Stem told AP.

Mrs. Shekharansky's husband, Anatoly, arrived in Israel in February in an East-West spy swap after serving nine years in prison. Israel contends some 400,000 out of the Soviet Union's 2.5 million Jews are seeking to emigrate from the Soviet Union, and many of those have family members abroad.

Mr. Kennedy told the immigrants he raised the Soviet Jewish issue in each of his meetings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his predecessor Leonid Brezhnev. He said the issue of separated families was especially important to him because he came from a large family himself.

Mr. Kennedy said both U.S. Republicans and Democrats agreed Israel only tried to help the United States when it shipped weapons to Iran.

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Shultz wants quick tabling of facts in Iran affair

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz said Friday the facts of the Iran arms sale issue should be "set out on the table" as quickly as possible. He also said that despite the refusal of two key administration aides to testify, what happened would become known. Mr. Shultz, attending a NATO foreign ministers meeting, said he assured his colleagues that the scandal would not create any problems for U.S. foreign policy. Questioned repeatedly after a news conference after the meeting, Mr. Shultz said he had not found it necessary to do any "rebuilding" among the allies because of the issue, as he indicated he might have to do when he arrived in Brussels for the two-day meeting. "What people are wanting to feel sure about is, as far as America is concerned, (that) we're in business and we're carrying out our foreign policy and our domestic policy," said Mr. Shultz.

Mr. Shultz, who has accused CIA Director William Casey of misleading him over arms sales to Iraq, also suggested the spy agency chief may have forgotten telling him the sales had been stopped.

Israeli stabbed in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli citizen was stabbed on Friday near an entrance to Jerusalem's Old City, Israeli police said.

The unidentified attacker escaped into the walled city and Israeli forces searched the area, police said.

They described the wounded man's condition as "medium."

The attack took place near the historic Damascus Gate, police added.

An Israeli youth was stabbed to death in the same area last month and resulted in a spate of anti-Arab violence by Jews.

Earlier, four Arab-owned cars were stoned in the predominantly Jewish Shmuel Hanavi district of Jerusalem on Friday as an uneasy calm prevailed in the occupied territories after a week of anti-occupation protests by Palestinians following the killing by Israeli soldiers of two students of a West Bank university last week.

The Israeli occupation authorities on Friday lifted a six-day curfew imposed on the Balata refugee camp near Nablus where two Palestinian teenagers were shot dead by Israeli soldiers earlier this week.

Agency dispatches reported an uneasy calm in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, which were rocked last week by the fiercest anti-occupation demonstrations in recent years following the killing of two students of Birzeit University last Thursday.

A 14-year-old boy was shot dead by Israeli troops during a protest demonstration in Balata the next day and on Monday a 12-year-old child was shot to death.

Israeli authorities claimed the child was not killed by troops although soldiers did wound four people during a demonstration in the camp later that day.

Tensions appeared to be lessening in the occupied territories Friday, with only sporadic rock-throwing by Palestinians in the Bureij, Maghazi and Deir Al Balah refugee camps in the occupied Gaza Strip, an army spokesman said.

On Thursday, soldiers threw tear-gas canisters and fired in the air to disperse a rally at a girls' school in the occupied Gaza Strip, but there were no injuries, a school spokeswoman said.

Also on Thursday, more than 150 Palestinian students held a peaceful rally at Birzeit University near the city of Ramallah, to protest the closing of a campus.

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Chirac 'paid hostage ransom'

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Thatcher under pressure again over raids on Libya

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher came under renewed pressure Friday to reveal exactly how much her government knew in advance of last April's U.S. bombing raids on Libya.

The raids were launched from British bases and caused a political storm. Both her office and the Foreign Office refused to comment on a report in Friday's Guardian newspaper saying that British officials had been secretly briefed by White House security aide Lt.-Col. Oliver North on the targets.

Labour parliamentarian Doug Hoyle said he was demanding an immediate statement from the prime minister to explain the allegations.

Mrs. Thatcher's decision to allow U.S. F-111 bombers to fly from British bases to attack targets in and around the Libyan capital, Tripoli, on April 15 caused a major political storm.

Her right-wing Conservative government, in office since 1979, was already trailing the opposition Labour Party in the opinion polls and political analysts said the controversy surrounding the Libyan raids helped to keep its percentage down.

The raids, and British involvement, had another spin-off effect when Conservative Party Chairman Norman Tebbit attacked the British Broadcasting

corporation (BBC) over its reporting from Tripoli during the bombing.

Friday's Guardian report said British officials discussed with Col. North — dismissed last month over the Iranian arms affair — specific targets, for the bombs.

It said Britain had insisted on precision bombing and added that the fact that British officials had been at the White House implied a detailed knowledge of the nature of the strike.

Mr. Hoyle, who said he was already written to Mrs. Thatcher demanding a public explanation, told reporters: "The questions have never been properly answered as to why Mrs. Thatcher allowed the Americans British facilities for this raid and Friday's disclosures make the situation even more murky than it was."

In a separate development in Abu Dhabi a British parliamentary delegation urged the international community Friday to "avoid" selling arms to either Iran or Iraq.

In a joint statement with the Federal National Council (parliament) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), they said a

Chad reports fresh fighting in north

N'DJAMENA (R) — Fierce fighting raged Friday in north east Chad where the government of President Hissene Habre has accused Libyan troops of using napalm and poison gas, government sources said.

They said that followers of former President Goukouni Oueddei killed 45 Libyan soldiers in the battles around Bardai, an oasis town in the foothills of the Tibesti Mountains.

N'Djamena Radio Thursday night said that the Libyan troops had Thursday launched major ground and air attacks against their former allies, Mr. Goukouni's Popular Armed Forces (FAP).

Information Minister Momine Hamdi, who read a government statement on radio Thursday night, said Libyan troops were led by Col. Rifi, the top Libyan commander in northern Chad.

The "patriotic forces" as Mr. Goukouni's troops are now described by the Habre government, were putting up fierce resistance, the sources told Reuters.

Mr. Goukouni's FAP, which used to form part of the Libyan-backed Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT), rallied to Mr. Habre's cause in October in the latest twist to a 20-year-old civil war.

Diplomats said Bardai was too far north of the 16th parallel — the so-called red line which marks the limit of N'Djamena's effective power — for government troops to provide direct support to Mr. Goukouni's men.

But they said some weapons shipped by France, Mr. Habre's closest ally, may have reached Mr. Goukouni's embattled forces.

Mr. Habre has appealed to France, which has some 1,200 troops in southern Chad, to help it recapture the north from Libya whose own military strength is estimated at around 8,000 troops by Western intelligence sources.

France has refused but promised logistical support and fresh arms deliveries.

Former President Goukouni was ousted by Mr. Habre three years ago. After failing to recapture power he was reported to be ready to reach a settlement when he was put under house arrest in Tripoli.

Libya has switched support to Achicheh Ibn Omar, head of the Democratic Revolutionary Council, one of the GUNT's main fighting groups.

He was elected president of GUNT last month and his followers were said by informed sources to be involved in the latest fighting alongside Libyan troops.

In Paris, the Foreign Ministry said it was keeping a close watch on the situation in Chad.

A ministry spokesman said Paris was continuing military aid to the Habre government and there was no change in the French military deployment in Chad.

UNICEF gives \$75,000 for 'camps war' refugees

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has allocated \$75,000 as emergency relief aid to Palestinian mothers and children displaced from their homes in refugee camps in Lebanon as a result of the eight-week-old fighting between Palestinians and the Shiite Amal militia.

It is estimated that some 12,000 Palestinian mothers and children have been forced out of their homes in the Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh shanty towns in west Beirut and the 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh camps in South Lebanon. "They have no place to go and are living in the pavements," said Mr. Richard Reid, director of the UNICEF regional office for the Middle East and North Africa in Amman.

The relief aid will be appropriated to buy food, blankets and winter clothes for the Palestinian mothers and children and the grant is expected to reach the beneficiaries within two days, Mr. Reid told the Jordan Times on Friday.

The regional office requested the UNICEF headquarters in New York for the aid on Wednesday

and the request was approved in less than 24 hours, Mr. Reid said. The Lebanon office of the UNICEF will be in charge of appropriating the grant and distribution will be assigned to the 43 UNICEF staff members and various non-governmental agencies in the war-torn country, Mr. Reid added.

Mr. Reid said the UNICEF move to provide emergency aid to the Palestinians came as a result of an appeal by Mr. Raimon Naimi, the Lebanon representative of the fund, who visited Amman earlier this week.

Mr. Naimi reported that the "situation was really getting bad" and "more serious than ever in recent years," Mr. Reid told the Jordan Times.

UNICEF maintains an "emergency relief" account of less than \$500,000 to be appropriated in "extremely critical situations" in any part of the world and the \$75,000 allocation came from this account, Mr. Reid said.

"We hope this grant will have an immediate impact in easing the suffering of many of those driven out of Shatila and other camps," said Mr. Reid. "The children and women are the most vulnerable, and they need the help first."

"We already have several of these in Lebanon and plan to increase their number," said Mr. Reid.

Organising a "steady umbrella of protection and support" for Palestinian mothers and children starting with food and school fees.

"Our present programmes in this field cover about 800 widows and their children," Mr. Reid said. "We hope to increase this to 2,000 with the expected funds to be raised through the world-wide campaign," he said.

In reply to a question of UNICEF's immunisation campaign in Lebanon, Mr. Reid said very few children had been vaccinated against the major childkillers in the last two years. "The present coverage is somewhere around 40 per cent — which is higher than many African countries but very low when compared to other countries in the Middle East."

In an earlier interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Reid had pointed out that the perpetual state of conflict and tension brought about by the decade-old civil war there "makes it virtually impossible for UNICEF to conduct an organised immunisation campaign."

Setting up "peace playgrounds" for children.

Turkey, U.S. renew defence agreement

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and the United States reached agreement Friday on terms for renewing a defence agreement under which the Americans keep military bases in Turkey, a NATO ally, officials said.

Conditions of the renewal were not immediately known. The U.S. team at the talks is headed by Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Perle.

Turkey gave notice in September last year that it wanted better terms from the accord, including an increase in financial assistance and more trade openings in the United States.

The two sides agreed on financial aspects last month but several key issues remained to be settled, including duration of the

renewal, the officials said. Turkey called for a period of two years but the United States wanted at least five.

Under the agreement, which ran for five years to 1985 and now continues year-by-year, the U.S. has important air bases, communications installations and electronic listening posts in Turkey, which borders the Soviet Union.

Last month, Washington announced a \$312 million military grant, plus \$178 million in soft foreign military sales credits to Turkey for the financial year from last October.

Ankara will receive a further \$100 million in economic aid. The 1986 total was \$868 million.

Iranian arms dealer says he arranged hostages release

WASHINGTON (R) — Iranian arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar has said he went to Lebanon to personally arrange the release of three American hostages and said there was hope the remaining five could eventually be freed.

Ghorbanifar, whose name was surfaced repeatedly in hearings in Washington on the sale of U.S. arms to Iran and diversion of the profits to Nicaraguan rebels, made his first public comments in a U.S. television interview Thursday night.

He appeared with Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, who has said the idea of improving U.S.-Iran relations and encouraging moderate elements in Tehran's revolutionary government was first suggested by Ghorbanifar.

The Iranian, whom Khashoggi said described himself as head of European intelligence for the Iranian government, said six shipments of U.S. arms moved to Iran, at a price of \$30 million to \$35 million. They included 2,000 TOW anti-tank missiles.

He said the deal was arranged in meetings with former White House National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, chief of the Israeli Foreign Ministry David Kimche, Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North who was fired from the National Security Council (NSC) last month, and Col. North's unofficial assistant, retired Air Force Gen. Richard Secord.

Both Ghorbanifar and Khashoggi said the money from the arms sale was paid into a Credit Suisse Bank account.

Tehran, Moscow reach agreement on gas exports

TEHRAN (R) — The head of a Soviet delegation which held three days of economic talks in Iran said the two countries reached some agreements on natural gas cooperation, Tehran Radio reported Friday.

Konstantin Katuchev, head of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, told the radio that agreements on some items in the field of natural gas cooperation were included in a protocol signed Thursday. He did not elaborate.

Iran stopped exporting gas to its northern neighbour in 1980 when Moscow rejected a price increase demanded by Tehran, but the two countries began talks this year on resuming supplies.

Deputy Iranian Oil Minister Hossein Kazempour Ardebil said last month that Iran hoped the gas would start to flow by mid-1987 although no price had yet been agreed.

Mr. Katuchev said "solutions satisfactory to both sides" were reached at the talks, a session of the Standing Committee for

Economic Cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union which had not met for six years.

In addition to steel production, power generation, water projects and transport, Mr. Katuchev mentioned petrochemicals as a new area of cooperation to be followed up in future contacts.

He said officials would explore "possibilities of cooperation, particularly in building certain units, which can take the form of sending experts, delivering machinery or other ways."

The radio said the protocol called for meetings of high-level delegations from the two countries every six months to review the implementation of the agreements.

It quoted Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Irvani, who led the Iranian side in the talks, as saying: "We believe that the implementation of understandings arrived at during this session will speed up the course of the expansion of relations between the two countries."

U.N. renews mandate of peace-keepers in Cyprus

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council has voted unanimously to renew the mandate of the U.N. peace-keeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for another six months, until June 15, 1987.

The force, numbering some 2,300 men from eight countries, was sent to the Mediterranean island in 1964 to help keep the peace between its Greek and Turkish communities.

It now consists of troops from Austria, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden, and small civilian police contingents from Australia and Sweden.

In his most recent report on UNFICYP, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said the continued presence of the force was indispensable while efforts continued for a solution to the problems of the divided island.

Suspect to face blast charge in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — A Jordanian embassy translator will be charged in court with involvement in the deaths of seven people in sabotage explosions at a state-run ammunition factory in August, court officials said Friday.

One official said investigations into three explosions at the Kırıkkale factory near Ankara were continuing and that two other foreigners, in addition to translator Adnan Musa Suleiman Ammerin, might also be charged. He did not elaborate.

The officials told Reuters that two Turks working at the factory, arrested by police last week, had confessed to taking orders from

the Syrian secret service to bomb the building. They said the trial was expected to start next month.

In addition to the seven dead, 25 people were injured in the August 15 explosions.

Last month, a court trying Mr. Ammerin and eight others charged in connection with the July 1985 killing of Jordanian diplomat Ziyad Al Sati in Ankara dropped the case against him on grounds of diplomatic immunity.

Mr. Ammerin was not released because the prosecution said there were three more cases, including the Kırıkkale explosions, pending against him. They said the others were espionage and attempting to

kill a witness in the Sati case.

Earlier, the Foreign Ministry had sent a letter to the courts saying Mr. Ammerin, although not included in the Jordanian embassy diplomatic list, had diplomatic immunity.

The ministry last month asked Jordan to lift Mr. Ammerin's immunity so that he would be tried for alleged involvement in terrorist activities in Turkey, a ministry official said.

Press reports said Jordan had informed the ministry that it might consider lifting his immunity if Turkey submitted documents concerning Mr. Ammerin's activities.

Peres: Israel should limit settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has said that Israel should limit Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip because it could not afford to build them.

Speaking to students in the Haifa suburb of Kiryat Bialik, he said: "When we are tightening the belt and cutting budgets... if it is education, health and certainly if it is security, I do not see any reason to give budgetary preference to Judea and Samaria (Israeli references to the West Bank)."

On Wednesday, Peres told visiting U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy that Israel would halt new settlement in the occupied Arab territories, a spokesman for the Labour foreign minister said. Peres' remarks have sparked

criticism from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud Bloc.

The two parties agreed to build six new settlements under a coalition accord signed after inconclusive 1984 elections.

Peres later told Reuters the economic situation had forced cuts in other government budgets and could affect the Labour-Likud compromise to build six settlements.

"I think three or four of the new settlements were established and the rest depends very much — talking about four agreement — upon the economic situation."

"I mean it doesn't sound to me right to cut, say, the budget of education and defence in order to build more settlements."

Asked to clarify if he was proposing a freeze on West Bank settlements, Peres said: "I didn't use that word. I said that the policy that was typified our approach on the West Bank over the last two years will be continued in the future."

The six new settlements were a coalition compromise.

Experts say 60,000 Jews have moved into more than 120 new settlements scattered around the towns and villages of 1.3 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza in the 19 years since the lands were occupied.

Shamir told state radio: "For me it's clear we will act according to the coalition agreement. There will be more (settlements) according to the agreement."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 News
15:35 Cartoons and children programmes
16:25 Traffic instructions
17:00 Circles
17:25 Local programme
17:50 Teaching French
18:25 Arabic series
19:20 Family programme
19:25 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Iraq Newsletter
21:00 Arabic series
21:10 Telenovela programme
22:15 Arabic play
22:40 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Europe live
18:20 La chance aux chansons
19:00 News in French
19:15 La Voie des Poésies
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Science World
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 You Again
21:00 Spotlight
21:10 Sunday variety show
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Brides of Dracula" — David Peir, Peter Cushing

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& parity on 9560 KHz. SW
Tel: 774111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:45 The Musical in Review
09:00 News Summary
09:15 Morning Show
09:30 News Summary
09:45 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:15 Pop Session cont.
10:30 News Bulletin
10:45 Jordan Weekly
11:00 Concert Hour
11:15 News Summary
11:30 Instrumental Old Favorites
11:45 Special Feature
12:00 News Summary
12:15 Top Twenty
12:30 News Desk
12:45 Date with a Star
13:00 News Desk

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00 News
06:05 Here's the Humph
06:45 Reflections 6:30 Financial News
06:50 World News 6:24 24 Hours
07:00 News Summary 07:30 About Britain
07:45 The World Today 08:00
08:00 News 08:30 Medias 08:30
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
* An art exhibition by Egyptian artist Hassan Jafar at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 15).
* A Spanish art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 15).
* An exhibition of some 50 works by British painters who visited the region in the Nineteenth Century at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabbal Lubdub.

CHURCHES
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Jabbal of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Lubdub, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hama, Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Lubdub, near the Italian language, near every Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Tel. 622365.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jabbal, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 678906.
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203.
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049.
Turkish Cultural Centre 637777.
Haya Arts Centre 661595.
Hama Youth City 667181/6.
Y.W.C.A. 641793.
American Municipal Library 637111.
University of Jordan Library 843555.

CULTURAL CENTRES
Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 661026/7.
American Centre 644371.
American Centre Library 641520.
British Council 6361478.
French Cultural Centre 637009.
Goethe Institute 641993.
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203.
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049.
Turkish Cultural Centre 637777.
Haya Arts Centre 661595.
Hama Youth City 667181/6.
Y.W.C.A. 641793.
American Municipal Library 637111.
University of Jordan Library 843555.

MUSEUMS
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mummies from Medinet and Jeddah (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. — 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qata (Chapel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. (Closed on official holidays 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings

PRAYER TIMES

06:00 Fair
06:27 (Sunrise) Doha
11:29 Doha
12:34 'Asr
16:21 Maghrib
17:29 Jabbal

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 532000-3, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
ALIA FLIGHTS
04:45 Saudi (RJ)
05:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:45 Athens (RJ)
07:45 Cairo (RJ)
08:45 Karachi, Doha (RJ)
09:45 Damascus (RJ)
10:45 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
11:45 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
12:45 Larnaca (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:45 New York, Vienna (RJ)
15:45 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
16:45 Tripoli (RJ)
17:45 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS
04:45 Saudi (RJ)
05:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:45 Athens (RJ)
07:45 Cairo (RJ)
08:45 Karachi, Doha (RJ)
09:45 Damascus (RJ)
10:45 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
11:45 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
12:45 Larnaca (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:45 New York, Vienna (RJ)
15:45 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
16:45 Tripoli (RJ)
17:45 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES
ALIA FLIGHTS
06:45 Athens (RJ)
07:45 Vienna, New York (RJ)
08:45 Tripoli (RJ)
09:45 Paris, Madrid (RJ)
10:45 Rome, London (RJ)
11:45 Geneva, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:45 Frankfurt, Munich (RJ)
13:45 Larnaca (RJ)
14:45 Cairo (RJ)
15:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:45 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
17:45 Jeddah (RJ)
18:45 Riyadh (RJ)
19:45 Karachi (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS

04:45 Baghdad (RJ)
05:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
06:45 Larnaca, London (RJ)
07:45 Cairo (RJ)
08:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Riyadh (RJ)
10:45 Baghdad (RJ)

ARRIVALS
ALIA FLIGHTS
04:45 Saudi (RJ)
05:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:45 Athens (RJ)
07:45 Cairo (RJ)
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15:45 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
16:45 Tripoli (RJ)
17:45 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Swedish youth delegation leaves

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the Swedish Council of Youth left Amman for occupied Jerusalem on Friday following a two-day visit to Jordan during which they met with a number of Jordanian youth and visited some of the country's historical sites. The five-member delegation is currently on a fact-finding tour in the area including Syria, Jordan, Israel and Egypt. The group of the young Swedish politicians, headed by Ms. Elizabeth Dahlen, included representatives of five youth organisations and parties which are members in the Swedish Council of Youth.

Senghor tours Hussein Medical Centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Former Senegalese President Leopold Senghor on Thursday visited Al Hussein Medical Centre accompanied by Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib. Mr. Senghor was briefed on the centre's services especially in the treatment of heart diseases and the transplantation of kidneys. Later, accompanied by Dr. Daoud Hanania, director of the Royal Medical Services, Mr. Senghor called at the Queen Alia Heart Centre where he met with the fourth heart recipient who underwent surgery three weeks ago. Mr. Senghor later signed the visitors register voicing appreciation for the medical achievements accomplished by the Al Hussein Medical Centre.

Turkish education team ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A Turkish educational delegation concluded a five-day official visit to Jordan on Thursday. During their visit they met with Ministry of Education officials for discussions on cultural and educational relations between the two countries. The Turkish delegation signed an executive programme for cultural cooperation between Jordan and Turkey for this year and for the next two years. The team also visited a number of educational and cultural institutions and archaeological sites in the country.

French archaeology official leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Philippe Guillman of the French department of cultural, scientific and technical cooperation left Amman on Thursday at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Mr. Guillman, who is responsible for archaeological cooperation, discussed Jordanian-French cooperation in archaeological and means of promoting this cooperation. Also discussed was the possibility of France's participation in archaeological projects included in the current five-year development plan. His talks also dealt with issues pertaining to holding the 4th international conference on the history of Jordan, scheduled to be held at Lyon University in France in 1989. During his visit, Mr. Guillman also visited a number of historical and archaeological sites where French archaeological teams are currently working.

Joint team concludes study on food security

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint team from the Jordanian government and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have concluded a study on food security in Jordan and completed an assessment of the Kingdom's experience in this respect. The study arrived at practical and important recommendations

CAEU to follow up on Arab ministers of finance meeting, Obeidi says

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Secretary General of the Council of Arab Economic Union (CAEU) Mahdi Al Obeidi said on Friday that the CAEU secretariat would pursue the implementation of key resolutions adopted by the Arab ministers of finance earlier in the week. The council's secretariat is optimistic that all resolutions adopted during the CAEU's 46th meeting, which ended its deliberations here late on Wednesday, would be met and implemented before the convening of the council's forthcoming session next June, said Mr. Obeidi who hailed the meeting as "very successful and fruitful."

"I am confident that member Arab states will cooperate with the CAEU secretariat to interpret the resolutions into action," Mr. Obeidi told the Jordan Times. The one-day session, which was held at the level of ministers of finance, resulted in eight resolutions aimed at reinforcing Arab economic unity to counter the effects of world economic recession on Arab countries. The first resolution stressed the need for further cooperation between Arab bodies — namely

the CAEU and Arab League — in order to execute pan-Arab treaties and accords relevant to adopting a common economic-Arab action. The resolution also called for implementing basic charters and conventions previously adopted for a unified Arab economic strategy.

The ministers of finance also called for undertaking development planning on pan-Arab and regional levels and favoured securing optimum coordination between national developments plans. The ministers suggested drawing up a framework for pan-Arab planning in the light of the data and recommendations gathered during the meeting of Arab ministers of planning.

Mobilising all Arab resources in order to curb the food crisis in the region through introducing a common agricultural programme to be based on the concept of Arab economic integration and joint ventures was another resolution adopted during the meeting. It also called for further Arab action aimed at developing Arab action and enhancing inter-Arab trade and drawing up policies and charters for activating the role of the Arab Common Market.

Another resolution called for

arriving at a unified Arab stand to tackle the issue of international indebtedness, a stand which would coordinate measures with other developing countries.

At the conclusion of the one-day session, Mr. Obeidi presented a detailed report on the current international economic situation and its short-term and long-term effects on the economies of Arab countries.

Mr. Obeidi said that the world economy witnessed a recession after an economic boom in 1985 and the first six months of 1986. Statistical reports showed a drop in interest rates and previously higher inflation rates dwindled to record lows, Mr. Obeidi told the participants.

He went on to say that the economic recession resulted in reducing the deficits in several countries' balance of trade, primarily as a result of those countries' protectionist policies.

On the other hand, international economic transactions witnessed a critical slow down, unemployment and hidden unemployment grew to higher rates, oil prices plummeted to unprecedented low levels in addition to dwindling prices of hard currencies' exchange rates and gold prices, said Mr. Obeidi.

Sudanese leader ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Mohammad Othman Al Mirghani, leader of Sudan's United Democratic Party, has left Amman for home at the end of an official visit to Jordan at the invitation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

During the six-day visit, Mr. Mirghani was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan and held meetings with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior government officials. Mr. Mirghani, who was accompanied by a large delegation, also toured cultural centres, tourist and archaeological

sites and economic projects in Jordan. In a statement before his departure, Mr. Mirghani described his visit as "fruitful and constructive" and said that it had helped to further cement Jordanian-Sudanese ties in all fields. He reiterated Sudan's appreciation and gratitude to Jordan for the Kingdom's help to the Sudanese people following the drought and famine which hit their country. He also said he and Jordanian leaders discussed means of further bolstering bilateral cooperation and the Arab and international fields.

On the situation in the occupied Arab territories, Mr. Mirghani said he was fully briefed on the deteriorating situation in the Israeli-held land and the consequences of Israel's continued arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people. Mr. Mirghani said he and Prince Hassan discussed future projects to help the victims of famine and drought in Sudan and cooperation between the two countries in health related affairs.

The Sudanese delegation was

EC, Arab delegates wind up talks on energy planning

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Improvement in energy planning cooperation between Europe and the Middle East as well as within the Middle East region is vital, said Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib on the last day of a six-day seminar on energy planning in the Middle East. He outlined the expected global development on the energy sector putting Jordan into perspective. He particularly emphasised the interdependence of the European countries and the Middle East with respect to oil and energy related technologies.

While the countries of the European Community (EC) possess only 2.5 per cent of the world's oil reserves, they account for the consumption of 20 per cent of these reserves. The Middle East countries, on the other hand, harbour 56 per cent of the world's oil, but consume only 3.6 per cent, Dr. Khatib said, and these figures mean, that the EC countries would have used up their oil in 60 years time, while the Middle East oil will last for the next 540 years, if each consumed their own reserves at the present rates.

These figures make clear, Dr. Khatib continued, that cooperation and exchange between the oil producing and the oil consuming countries is necessary. Presently, the EC and the Middle East cooperation and interaction in the energy sector is mainly on the lines of transfer of technologies and equipment for the generation of energy and the petrochemical sector from Europe to Arab countries and raw oil to the EC, he added.

Concerning energy policy on the global level, Dr. Khatib called for more stable oil prices. Fair prices for oil should reflect its scarcity and depletable nature, and emphasis should continue to be on oil conservation and its efficient and economic use. He once more stressed that he expects renewable or alternative energies to play only minor roles in the energy sector and that the "traditional" fuels — oil, coal, gas, nuclear power — will continue to be the main energy sources well into the next century.

Until recently, investment in the energy sector in Arab countries mainly went to electricity projects — in Jordan and Egypt they received up to 9 per cent of the total investment, while there is now a switch of investments to the telecommunications and information sectors, which are also less energy consuming, the minister said. The percentage, which electricity takes up of the

total energy production, will still grow globally, he continued, as coal, and nuclear power particularly lend themselves to the generation of electricity. Although the relative shares of coal, gas and nuclear power are on the rise, oil will for a long time to come, be the major fuel, as its share is going to grow even faster, he noted.

The situation on the world energy sector being as it is, there is no alternative to worldwide energy cooperation, Dr. Khatib said. The flow of oil from the Middle East countries to Europe, North America and the Pacific region is going to increase slowly, parallel to the depletion of resources in these areas.

Dr. Khatib expects the market for electricity to develop in a similar fashion to the oil market, with "spot prices" for capacities across national borders. This calls for "across the border" electricity networks and would ensure more reliable supplies as well as cheaper energy for the consumer, he said.

In the following discussion, Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Maher Abaza warned that while the oil consuming countries at the moment enjoy low prices and simultaneously develop energy saving policies and technologies for the use of renewable energies, the oil producing countries are suffering from a slump in oil prices. The use of oil, as other fossil fuels, in the long run could only be seen as a transitional stage of global energy production and alternatives should be developed in time.

Dr. Rath-Nagel, an EC consultant, pointed out that the conditions in all Arab countries are very well suited for the use of renewable energies, particularly solar power. The development of solar energy technologies should be a priority in these countries, which then could be exported to the EC rather than the other way round. The minister said he shared this view regarding solar energy, while he called for further European assistance for the development of appropriate wind energy technologies in the Middle East and Jordan in particular.

During the seminar, various papers on the processes of energy planning were presented by Jordan and delegates of 13 participating European and Arab countries and funds. Additional papers mainly dealt with information systems and data collection for energy planning, interaction of the economy and energy planning as well as pricing policies.

Independent commission meets today to present final report on global humanitarian issues

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI) will open a meeting here today under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to present its final report encompassing a framework for an international humanitarian order.

Co-chaired by Prince Hassan and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the ICHI groups 27 world figures concerned with the welfare of human beings and humanitarian issues.

Although the commission is an independent body which functions outside the United Nations, the General Assembly has passed a number of resolutions indicating its support and encouragement for the commission and its activities. The United Nations has also requested to be kept informed of the commission's programmes and recommendations.

According to the commission's charter, this group has been set up to promote a greater awareness of the human dimension in countless problems which confront the global community. The

commission aims at bringing to humanitarian questions the same level of attention that is normally given to economic, political and security issues and has addressed itself to identifying and promoting humanitarian issues with its focus on the broad areas of concern to contemporary society, according to the ICHI charter.

These, the charter says, include humanitarian norms in the context of armed conflicts, disasters, natural and man-made, and vulnerable groups requiring special care and protection, such as refugees and displaced persons, the stateless and the disappeared, indigenous populations and street children.

The commission has undertaken in-depth studies of various humanitarian issues and

the studies are designed to highlight the way in which policies and practices contribute to and exacerbate the suffering of individuals who are generally powerless and unable to protect themselves from the ramifications of circumstances over which they have no control. These studies also demonstrate the necessity of new perspectives and approaches that go to the source of the issue, as opposed to merely the symptoms.

Special reports

A series of reports which address the humanitarian implications of these questions have been prepared. The first is on famine and it analyses the factors that contributed to the on-going African tragedy and suggests the disaster is less the result of natural level which hinders development. Another report deals with desertification and deforestation and focuses on the necessity of development in harmony with nature's delicate ecological balance. A third report focuses on armed conflicts and a fourth draws attention to the plight of street children.

Jordan and Egypt move ahead with plan to link national electricity grids

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of Jordan and Egypt's stepped up efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation, the two countries will be working towards linking their respective national electricity grids through the Sinai Peninsula and Jordan's southern part area of Aqaba.

Agreement on the scheme was reached between Egyptian Minister of Energy and Electricity, Maher Abaza and his Jordanian counterpart Hisham Al Khatib after week-long discussions which ended with both sides signing a memorandum of understanding for electricity cooperation.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the signing of the memorandum, did not mention the date set for the link between the two countries' national electricity grids. Dr. Khatib and other senior officials were not available for comment.

The idea of linking Jordan's electricity grid with the Egyptian network surfaced earlier this year and was highlighted during the discussions of the Nov. 8 international conference entitled "towards strengthening regional and international cooperation."

Under the memorandum of

understanding signed on Thursday, both Jordan and Egypt agreed to pave the way for further cooperation in electricity related affairs.

They pledged to conduct studies on the existing power networks in both countries and training technicians and other employees on planning for and promoting the use of electricity. The agreement also provided for the exchange of visits by experts in energy and solar power.

Mr. Abaza and an accompanying delegation left Amman for Cairo shortly after the signing ceremony on Thursday. During their week-long visit to Jordan, they met with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior Jordanian officials. They also visited the country's largest thermal power station in Aqaba and toured a number of Jordan's historic and tourist sites.

Mr. Abaza told Petra that both countries plan to carry out close cooperation in solar energy through the Royal Scientific Society and the Egyptian Energy Ministry and that Egypt hopes to benefit from Jordan's experience in this field. The minister said that

both countries are already undertaking a joint cooperation programme entailing the preparation of studies on environmental pollution.

Following the signing ceremony, a second memorandum of understanding was concluded between the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the Egyptian Ministry of Energy. It was signed by Mr. Walid Jaouni from JEA and Dr. Imad Sharawi from the Egyptian Ministry of Energy and Electricity. Mr. Jaouni said that the memorandum provides for conducting a feasibility study on linking the national grids of Egypt and Jordan, and both sides have set up a joint technical committee to follow up on the preparation of studies for this project.

The memorandum also provides for the exchange of expertise and technical programmes related to the maintenance and the operation of generating stations, controlling transformers and power stations and carrying out electricity projects as well as the manufacture of electrical appliances. Mr. Jaouni pointed out.

Pressure builds on Reagan for decisive action

(Continued from page 1)

reports that close friends of Mr. Reagan, supported by his wife Nancy, want him to sack Mr. Reagan, who is responsible for the White House staff that included national security experts involved in the Iran-contra operation. In a letter to the Washington Post, Republican Senate leader Bob Dole, Mr. Reagan's most valuable Senate ally, urged the president to move decisively. "The Iran arms sale controversy threatens to keep the country bogged down for months," he wrote. "We have to get all the facts out now, so that we — the president, Congress, the people — can settle the issue once and for all and get on with the nation's business."

Mr. Dole said Oliver North, the National Security Council (NSC) aide fired by Mr. Reagan because of the contra funding, and Lieutenant-Colonel North's former NSC boss, Vice-Admiral John Poindexter, should "go to the president and tell him everything."

Adm. Poindexter resigned as Mr. Reagan's national security adviser when the scandal broke.

Mr. Casey appeared before the Senate Intelligence Committee in two closed sessions on Thursday and told reporters he had started asking questions about possible funding of the contra last summer after New York businessman Roy Furmark told him some Canadian businessmen financing arms deals with Iran might have been swindled out of their commissions.

Mr. Furmark, who also testified to the closed committee session, was reported to have told Mr. Casey the Canadians were considering legal action which would have brought the whole Iran arms deal out in public.

The Washington Post reported Friday that Mr. Casey had supplied the White House with a CIA evaluation of so-called "moderates" in Iran who were reported ready to discuss improving relations with the United States in July 1985.

The CIA assessment was at the request of Robert McFarlane, national security adviser at the time and a key player in the arms sales to Iran. Mr. McFarlane had been informed by Israeli intelligence of the existence of such "moderates."

Israeli documents, presented by David Kimche, director general of the Israeli foreign ministry,

included a list of 1,000 Iranians including high military officers and members of parliament, the newspaper said.

In other developments in the continuing scandal: — The Washington Post in Friday's editions reported that elder statesmen from both political parties have spoken privately with Mr. Reagan in recent days as part of an effort to persuade him that he must take strong action to rescue himself from the damage caused by the Iran arms sales disclosures.

— The New York Times, also in Friday's editions, reported that the CIA originally proposed the idea of keeping the Iran arms sale secret from Congress. The Times quoted government sources as saying the agency took the step in the first draft of what became a presidential order guiding the programme. Mr. Reagan signed that order last January.

— Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state, acknowledged that he sought aid for the contra from another government, widely reported as Brunel, in order to "bridge the gap" between periods of congressional funding. He said in an interview with the Post that

he doubted \$30 million in profits should be diverted from the arms deal ever reached the contra.

"If I had known there was 25 million bucks, in somebody's account... why the hell would we have needed to go to a foreign government," Mr. Abrams said. Republican Senator William Cohen of Maine, said the Senate Intelligence Committee still does not have "sufficient evidence to conclude where the money went, to whom, or under what circumstances."

"It's possible the money may never have left the Swiss bank accounts. It may still be there. Or it may have been paid out for some kind of weapons that were traded for other weapons," he said. — The New York Times reported that White House aides were looking for outside help from former White House officials to solve Mr. Reagan's crisis, indicating that current staffers feel the problem is growing.

Chief of Staff Regan has approved the approach, the newspaper said, citing sources who said the plan may be an attempt by Mr. Regan to quell demands that he resign.

Shelling rocks Beirut camps

(Continued from page 1)

Boruj Al Barajneh. At least 600 Lebanese and Palestinians have been killed and more than 1,150 wounded in the camps war, including many civilians, since fighting started on Sept. 30.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a message to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat concerning Moscow's efforts to end the "camps war" in Lebanon, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said.

The message was handed to Mr. Arafat in Baghdad by the Soviet ambassador. Mr. Arafat replied detailing latest developments in the fighting around Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, Wafa said Thursday night.

He also described "acts of aggression, repression and terrorism" by Israeli forces in occupied Arab territories, Wafa added.

Amal says it is battling to stop the Palestinians from re-establishing the powerful military presence in Lebanon they

had before the 1982 Israeli invasion. Palestinians say they are feeding off a Syrian-backed plan to uproot their refugee camps.

In Damascus, Palestinian groups on Thursday announced an immediate ceasefire in fighting at refugee camps in Beirut in South Lebanon, but there was no word on whether Amal had opponents agreed to it.

The ceasefire was announced by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Leaders of the PFLP and the other factions hammered out the plan during meetings in Damascus with Abdul Salam Jiloud, the right-hand man to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Under the latest proposal, the ceasefire was to go into effect immediately.

Then, beginning Friday, Palestinian forces were to withdraw from one-third of their positions in Maghdoueh. In return, Amal would lift its siege of the Rashidiyah camp to allow four trucks of medicine and food to enter.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: No to partial deals

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Thursday called on Jordan and Egypt to enter into direct negotiations with Tel Aviv with the purpose of implementing the Camp David agreements, which he said would establish peace. With this suggestion, Shamir is clearly aiming to forestall any moves to establish real peace through an international conference. He is determined to thwart international bids to convene such conference in which all concerned parties can be represented and which could actually find a formula for a lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This game is intended to sow seeds among Arab countries and create a suitable atmosphere for Israel to implement its designs in the Arab region. But Israel should realise that Jordan cannot and will never abandon its declared policies and would never give up the demand for an international conference and would never act for the PLO or serve as substitute for the Palestinian people in such conference and in the peace making process. For this reason, we call on Senator Kennedy not to be taken in by Israel's false calls for peace and carry Shamir's views to Amman and Cairo because both capitals are determined to work for the achievement of a lasting peace and not for a partial solution. There can be no alternative for an international conference in which the PLO as well as the other parties can participate in the making of peace. It also should be said that the current Israeli repressive measures in the West Bank would never force Jordan to change its national position.

Al Dustour: The nation is absent

ISRAEL'S new raid on Palestinian refugee camps near Nahr Al Barid in Lebanon in the north of Lebanon coincided with stepped up attacks on refugee camps in the south and near Beirut. Both the raid and the shelling of camps by the Shi'ite Amal Movement were aimed at killing innocent civilians and destroying the homes of the displaced people of Palestine. At the same time, the Israeli authorities are going ahead with repressive measures against the Arab population under its rule with total disregard to the recent United Nations Security Council resolution calling on Tel Aviv to refrain from committing further crimes against the Palestinians. All this is happening before the eyes of the world. What is more surprising is that these events have not yet helped to rally the Arabs or to enable their governments to form a united policy or take a joint Arab action at least at the diplomatic level. The hood of the Palestinian people is being shed at the hand of the Israelis or their agents in the region, and innocent people are being killed and forced to abandon their homes and their camps. Yet, these grave events have drawn no reaction from the Arab Nation. Israel and its allies in Lebanon would not have gone thus far in their criminal actions had they been confronted by a meaningful action on the part of the international community and at least by the Arab Nation. But the Israelis and their agents should realise that the more they escalate their aggression the stronger will be the resistance, and the struggle will never cease.

Sawt Al Shaab: A nation in paralysis

AS the Israelis pursue their criminal actions in the occupied territories the world community reacts by issuing condemnation, and the Arabs are only looking on and doing nothing to help save the lives of the innocent people. The Israelis continue to kill Arab youths in the West Bank and raid refugee camps in Lebanon, closing educational institutions with the aim of forcing the Palestinians to abandon their homeland. Israel's atrocities should not be responded to by mere condemnation but a meaningful action on the part of the Arab countries and the international community at large. The Israelis continue their aggression on the eastern flank of the Arab World, but the Arabs are doing nothing in return and have so far failed to take joint action that would deter the aggressors and their common enemies. Aggression cannot be deterred by feeble gestures like condemnation or denunciation, but rather through a joint action and determined efforts.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Human rights, a la Israeli style

ISRAEL observed Human Rights Day in its own special way, by committing further crimes in the occupied Arab territory. Israeli forces opened fire on innocent and unarmed people and imposed curfews on refugee camps in the Gaza and the West Bank. A little girl was the latest victim of the Israeli atrocities in the occupied Gaza Strip following the killing of three other youths in the West Bank. In addition, the Israeli forces imposed a curfew on the Arroub refugee camp and announced, through Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, that further acts of repression will be employed against the Arabs regardless of the U.N. Security Council resolution which earlier called on Israel to refrain from its illegal actions. Israel's violation of all human rights in the occupied Arab territory and its killing of Arab youths are part of a comprehensive plan designed to liquidate the Arab presence in Palestine. The Security Council will therefore not be able to stop the Zionists from committing their crimes by means of resolutions. Unless the Israelis receive effective sanctions and penalties from the international community, they are bound to pursue their criminal actions, and unless the Arab countries take meaningful and serious measures to deter the Israelis, more and more atrocities will be committed against the Arab people.

Al Dustour: Natural outcome

IT was natural for a meeting at the Arab League not attended by a majority of Arab foreign ministers to produce weak resolutions and feeble results. Unlike what the Arab masses had been hoping for, the meeting resulted in no meaningful action required to put an end to the bloodshed in Lebanon and an end to aggression on Palestinian refugee camps there. The differences that persist in the Arab arena were reflected within the Arab League, and prevailed during the meetings of the foreign ministers who were unable to reach strong decisions or come up with a formula to protect the innocent people in the refugee camps in Lebanon. The Arab foreign ministers succeeded only in issuing an appeal for all warring factions to stop the bloodshed, but failed to propose a formula that can help bring peace to Lebanon. The failure to take meaningful action means that the Arab countries are not yet aware of the seriousness of the situation in the embattled country, or indifferent to the outcome of the current fighting there.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

U.S. policy under Reagan: cry of lament can be heard

By Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan has been known to be an instinctive president with an aversion to detail. In some of the writings about him, Reagan has been described as a determined, though unreflective man. In contrast with his predecessor Jimmy Carter he provided the American public with the image of a man who was sure of himself, a man who knew where he was going: an elder statesman, a father image. Such an image remains the major factor behind his popularity even in spite of the recent revelations concerning his deals with Iran. He avidly cultivated this image, capitalised on it, always aware of the American public's psychological need and wary of the turbulent years that preceded him. Since the Eisenhower era, the United States has been internationally and domestically beset by a number of crises that shook the country's confidence in itself. Kennedy's assassination left the office for Johnson who assumed the presidency by default, to be followed by Richard Nixon whose "Watergate" affair still resounds till this day. The interlude of Gerald Ford was followed by President Carter, a capable, principled man whose bad luck was a major cause for Reagan's election.

Iran gave and Iran took away. It was the hostage crisis that brought President Reagan to popularity, and it is now Iran that has caused him loss of face, prestige and credibility. Six years ago, when he came to power, the world, not just America, hoped that with his artistic background, his experience and his age, he would be more sensitised to the needs of a world in turmoil, a world in the shadow of constant crises, threatened any minute with a nuclear holocaust that could end civilisation and life. The man who was called by some of his people visionary was less than that, and rather than dealing with global and regional crises with the delicacy of a caring father he took the attitude of the adversary. This is sad though some American nationalists may retort that he restored American prestige, even power.

It was hoped in 1980 that he would use American power and

prestige not in the attitude of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," but to restore confidence in the high moral standards, the principles of democracy, the adherence to international law that America once stood for; that mercy is sometimes above justice and that justice is ultimately giving disputing parties each its due. We hoped that he would realise that America's strength, power and influence emanate as much from those who held lofty principles as it does from the military power that it is. Sadly it was more often the adversary than the even-handed mediator and under his leadership it resorted more and more to the use of force, the threat of its use, disinformation, secret diplomacy and methods bordering on the underground.

In assessing his tenure of office until the present, several patterns can be observed. Though he did not embroil America in any large-scale conflict like the Korean or the Vietnam war, he indicated his willingness to use force more than any other President since Truman. Johnson seems to have drifted into, rather than actually opted for, the Vietnam conflict. President Reagan can also be characterised as the most ideological president since the second World War with a tendency to see things in stark black and white, good and evil with no shades. The ideological stance which may have been designed initially to restore American self-confidence began to gather momentum of its own and became an end in itself. It was to raise the international level of tension to the point where arms limitations talks became simply just that, talks; and where the American president eventually declared his rejection of the SALT II agreement: basically a gentleman's agreement not ratified by the U.S. Senate. President Reagan's commitment to the concept of the strategic defence initiative, popularly known as the Star Wars programme, though obviously inadequate as a "defence" system, seems calculated to raise rather than diminish international tension.

In the Middle East, the situation since 1980 has deteriorated to the

point where America's traditional allies have been abandoned. In Central America, a "contra" group has been clandestinely armed and financed by the U.S. administration against the law and calls to the contrary by Congress; while Grenada was invaded and Britain allowed, even encouraged to invade the Falklands in the Western Hemisphere once considered the backwaters of the United States. Libya was harassed and eventually physically attacked while Syria continues to suffer from violent rhetoric. Even friendly Egypt had one of its planes hijacked to capture the alleged terrorists of the Achille Lauro. Most disappointing of United States policies under President Reagan was his disdain of the United Nations and some of its agencies like UNESCO as well as his declaration in October, 1985 that he would violate international law to fight terrorism as well as his October 1986 declaration that the U.S. would no longer submit automatically to the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice known as the World Court.

These words are not meant to be a catalogue of the major characteristics of American politics under President Reagan in as much as they are a cry of lament that such a powerful country with so much to offer mankind does not do so. The latest affair already termed "Irangate" coming as it is on the heels of the last American congressional elections of November 1986, has insured that the president will be what the Americans call a "lame duck" president for the rest of his term in office, which continues until 1989. This is sad on at least two counts. One, because the whole underground affair was not in accordance with standards of normal U.S. conduct since it arms an actively aggressive aggressor which glorifies in the humiliation of America and calls her the "Great Satan"; and two, because it deprives the world of the leadership of a man who in his last two years of office could have been more visionary, more just, since not faced with running for office again, he would not be bound by the demands of any lobby, especially the Zionist.

South Korea worried about military threat from proposed Han river dam

By C.W. Lim
The Associated Press

SUSANGRI, South Korea — South Korea fears that a proposed North Korean hydroelectric dam could reduce the flow of water to Seoul in peacetime, and he used in wartime to direct a devastating torrent of water at the South Korean capital.

South Korea has repeatedly asked North Korea to abandon the project. But Pyongyang authorities reportedly are pushing ahead with the dam in the Diamond mountains.

To counter the threat, South Korea is considering building a dam at Susangri in the south, just below the demilitarised zone that divides the Korean peninsula, to serve as barrier to water released by the dam in the north.

"We want to be able to shut off the water here by building a huge dam, probably 200 metres high," said a South Korean intelligence officer who would be identified only as a Col. Park.

"That would be enough to help thwart the north's attempts to use the dam for military purposes," he said.

South Korea says that if the north goes ahead with its project, the dam would harness up to 20 billion tonnes of water.

Officials in Seoul say if the water was released by accident or design it would race through the gorges and into the area of Seoul, submerging many of the populated areas along the Han and most of the facilities for the 1988 Olympics. The water could also cut off Seoul from strategically important military units.

They also contend the dam would reduce the supply of water to the Han River, which flows through the South Korean capital and helps support the city of nearly 10 million.

Susangri is a fortified, restricted, South Korean military guard post

located 115 kilometres northeast of Seoul. It is just below the Diamond mountain site of the proposed North Korean dam.

Adjustments to the military demarcation line established after the 1950-53 Korean war left the Susangri guard post well above the 38th parallel used to divide the peninsula at the end of World War II.

Vigilance and tension are always high along the 242-kilometre demilitarised zone. Reporters, under the escort of military officers, were brought to the region around Susangri over the weekend in a trip arranged by government authorities.

Boats carrying civilian surveying teams were seen moving in the area. In some reaches of the Pukhan River, trimmed logs washed up on the river banks. South Korean authorities said the logs had floated down from the North Korean construction site.

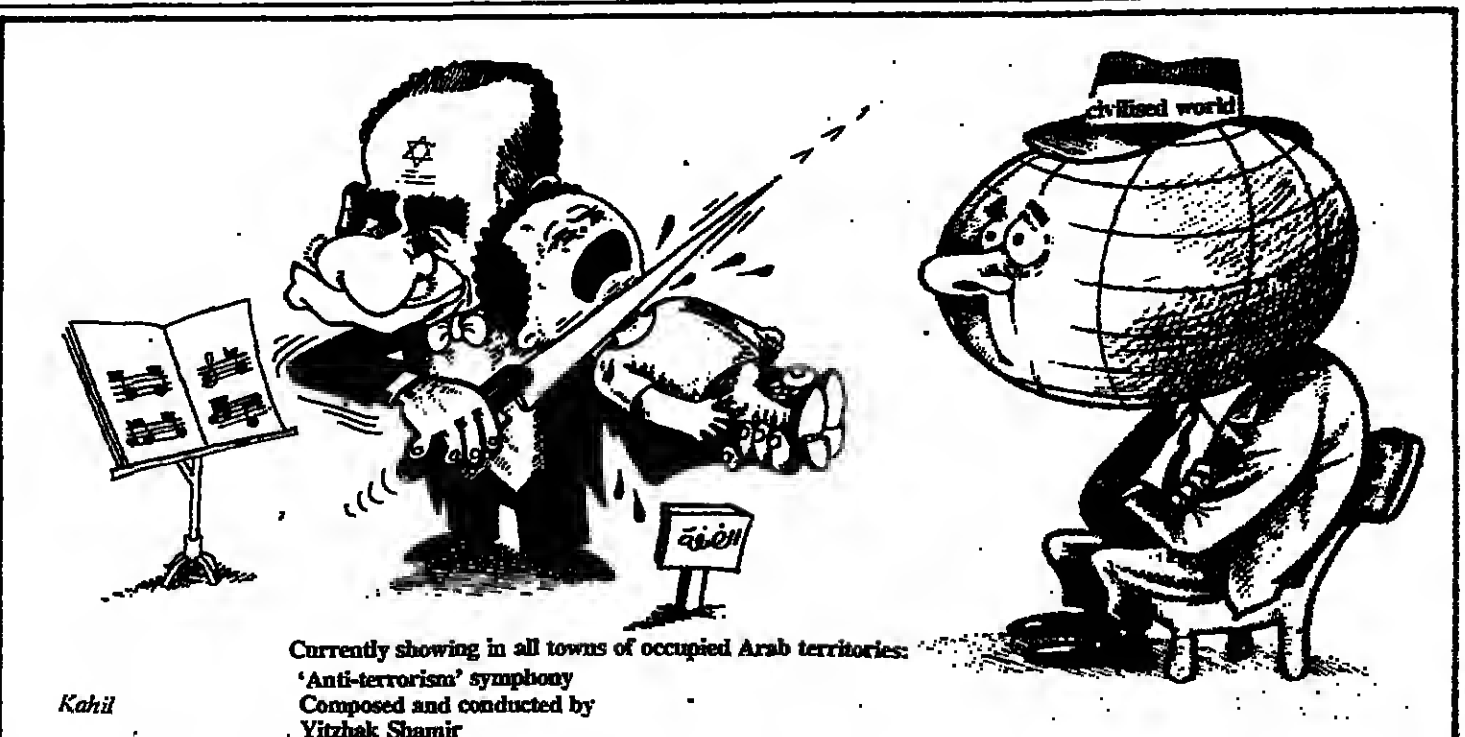
South Korea has not yet decided if it will go ahead with the costly construction of its own dam. But officials say it is a definite possibility unless North Korea halts its project.

While South Korean officials have denounced the proposed dam in the north, they also have said the situation could be a reason to resume South-North talks.

Contacts between Seoul and Pyongyang, revived in 1984 after a period of 11 years, were broken off again early this year by the north because South Korea and the United States were going ahead with a major, annual military training exercise.

Since that training ended in April, calls from the south to resume the talks have drawn no positive response from the north.

An intensive campaign has been built up against the North Korean project, and tens of thousands of people have turned out in rallies at major South Korean cities in protests against the dam.



Currently showing in all towns of occupied Arab territories:
"Anti-terrorism" symphony
Composed and conducted by
Yitzhak Shamir

Filipino Communist rebels enjoy celebrity status

By Miguel C. Suarez
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Hounded for years as criminals, Communist rebel leaders are winning respectability and even celebrity status while they talk with the government about ending their 17-year-old insurgency and possibly sharing power.

Since signing a cease-fire agreement Nov. 27, officials of the Communist-dominated National Democratic Front have gained wide public exposure through frequent interviews and public appearances.

A government guarantee of immunity from arrest during the cease-fire and peace negotiations has opened the door to greater public visibility for the rebels than ever before.

Rebel exploits, taboo subject matter under ex-president Ferdinand E. Marcos, are the subject of four current films playing to packed Manila movie houses. The military loaned the rifles, tanks and helicopters used in combat scenes.

Meanwhile, three rebel negotiators and seven security men have been shopping for homes in Manila. As the cease-fire takes effect, other rebels will be free to move into populated areas.

"This is a turning point for the

NDF, not just a simple propaganda coup," wrote Francisco Tatad in the newspaper Business Day. With their new visibility, Tatad said, the Communists have "planted (their) official presence in the city, without disturbing anyone's slumber or causing undue alarm."

Although right-wing communists have expressed concern over growing rebel visibility, no one in President Corazon Aquino's government has expressed such reservations.

"You know our bias for liberalism and pluralism," presidential counsel Rene Saguisag said. "It's the use of force we're against. To me, the superior idea will prevail. The marketplace will decide that."

"There's danger that a trusting, innocent or glib public eager for peace... may swallow the innocent-looking chinkers, hook, line and sinker," cautioned conservative columnist Max Soliven in the Philippine Star.

Teodoro Valencia, writing in the Philippines Daily Express, echoed warnings by some military officials that the rebels stand to gain more than the government from the cease-fire.

"The longer the cease-fire, the better it will be for the rebels," said Valencia. "They can proceed with whatever they have to do in

peace. President Aquino is getting the kudos, but the Communists are the real winners."

Meanwhile, front negotiators Satur Ocampo, Antonio Zume and Carolina Malay have been appearing frequently on television talk shows. All are former journalists, and have numerous friends in Manila's press corps. Speeches they give draw large audiences.

With its officials immune from arrest, the front has applied for office space at the national press club in the heart of Manila. The club has indicated willingness to make room.

It was from the club that Ocampo escaped after nearly nine years in prison under Marcos. Probably with the aid of journalist friends, Ocampo slipped away from guards after being taken to the club, ostensibly to vote in its elections last year.

Manuel Morato, head of the movie and television review and classification board, described films based on the insurgency as a "temporary wave."

He said the rebels were now fashionable because in the past they were "nameless fighters hidden and clothed in mystery."

Morato said he has not applied Marcos-era censorship rules, which remain on the books, "because he said, 'the public

should be informed of what's really happening."

Morato said his 27-member board would draw the line at scripts that "glorify the New People's Army or disgrace the image of the armed forces."

Still, films show a side of the rebellion that has never been depicted so openly or sympathetically.

One movie, titled "Gabi na, Kumander" (It's Getting Dark, Commander), features a fictional army major sent to fight rebels under the command of his younger brother.

In it, members of a landlord's private army round up tenants unable to pay their rent. Before the armed men can shoot their victims, NPA guerrillas with guns blazing come to the rescue.

When the two heroes — Maj. Ramil Macan and his brother Ronald, or "Commander Cobra" — come face to face, the rebel cites the abuse and exploitation suffered by the impoverished masses in defending his cause.

"Commander Cobra" eventually is killed by his fellow guerrillas, who believe he is going to surrender.

Morato said the script had "redeeming value that in the end, these killings must stop and we should get united and talk."

Rebel presence in Honduras invites risk of conventional war

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

MEXICO CITY — Air strikes and infantry battles along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border last week have provided a noisy reminder that the presence of U.S.-backed rebels in Honduras invites all-out conventional war.

The latest fighting brought in to focus that both the Hondurans and Nicaragua's left-wing Sandinista government have to draw fine balances in dealing with the rebels, known as contras.

In Honduras, the government of Jose Azcona is an increasingly reluctant host to the contras but there are distinct limits to its freedom of manoeuvre.

"The government's dilemma is obvious," a European ambassador in Tegucigalpa said recently. "On the one hand, it knows that allowing the rebels to operate from Honduras is a condition for U.S. aid to the country. On the other hand, the rebel presence invites domestic discontent and all the risks associated with having a foreign guerrilla army on your soil."

The Sandinistas' dilemma is familiar to all governments fighting a guerrilla force that enjoys sanctuary in a neighbouring country. As long as

insurgents can flee across an international border to regroup, rest or re-supply, there is virtually no possibility of defeating them.

The latest fighting along the border, a flash-point of tension in Central America, involved Honduran air force jets that bombed and strafed positions set up by Nicaraguan troops who had crossed into Honduras in pursuit of anti-government Nicaraguan insurgents.

On the ground, Honduran regulars ferried to the combat zones by U.S. helicopters exchanged fire with Nicaraguan troops. The fighting died down after three days and caused relatively few casualties. Honduras reported three wounded, Nicaragua put its death toll at seven.

"In purely military terms, it wasn't much — more smoke than fire," said a Western diplomat, "but this sort of thing can easily get out of hand. That's the danger on the border."

As with previous clashes, the underlying cause of the action, which flared on Saturday, was the presence in Honduras of thousands of insurgents fighting for the overthrow of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The rebels, estimated at up to



20,000, have been unable to seize any territory inside Nicaragua and routinely return to Honduras after operations south of the border. Nicaraguan troops frequently pursue them and there has been a series of Nicaraguan attacks on insurgent camps.

Diplomats and military experts say that both Honduras and Nicaragua have been anxious to avoid a war over the rebels.

Despite the tough language emanating from Managua and Tegucigalpa, the two governments have often acted in line with tacit agreements and codes of conduct to avoid open conflict.

One such agreement appears to have broken down this weekend after being in force since March,

when U.S. helicopters ferried hundreds of Honduran troops to the border to repel what was described as a large-scale Nicaraguan incursion.

In at least five incidents since then, the Honduran army did little but help to evacuate civilians from border areas when fighting broke out between contras and Nicaraguan troops inside Honduras.

Border residents told reporters that as long as the clashes involved Nicaraguan insurgents and Nicaraguan troops, and as long as the action stayed in an area close to the border, Honduran units stood by without firing a shot.

Critics of the Honduran government suggested it had effectively abandoned national sovereignty over a slab of territory where contras and Sandinistas were allowed to operate freely.

Although both sides issued conflicting accounts of weekend events, diplomats said the Sandinistas had broken the usual pattern by attacking a Honduran army post and three Honduran villages rather than confining operations to contra targets.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto, adding to a long string of similar statements, blamed the United States for the use of air strikes — the first in 15

months — and said Washington was looking for a pretext for direct intervention.

Diplomats and Honduran officials say the Hondurans acted in response to domestic rather than U.S. pressure to deflect mounting criticism over its handling of the contras.

In recent months, there has been a growing public clamour for the expulsion of the contras from

Honduran territory. Complaints over their presence have spilled from the political left to stanch conservative sectors of society.

Honduras' two main broadcasting stations, Radio America and HIRN Radio, report receiving an average of 50 letters a week complaining about the contra presence and the government's lack of action to restore peace to the border.

LETTERS

A question of size

To the Editor:

It is an irrefutable fact of life that "not all things are equal," and this applies to envelopes and stamps among other things. Therefore, it is sheer aggravation when one struggles to place a mass of bulky stamps all over the front and back of an envelope and anywhere else in between.

In light of the great improvements that the postal service is undergoing, it would be good if our post offices introduced smaller single stamps with the most commonly used values (240, 160 fils etc.), so that outgoing letters acquire the "classical beauty" due them.

David Khaleel
P.O. Box 511537
Amman

Extending a helping hand to Sudan

By Josephine Zananiri
Photos by Osama Akaz
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — When the last famine swept across Africa over 30 to 35 million people were effected, says Dr. Anwar Belbeisi of the Jordanian National Committee for famine relief in the Sudan. "Up to 10 million people were displaced," abandoning their homes in search of water, food and pasture. Groups of families, even entire villages with their pitiful flocks of animals set off on journeys often of hundreds of miles, seeking a renewed existence; many died along the way.

In Sudan, by September 1985, about 8.8 million people suffered as a result of the massive drought and famine. "Two million people were severely malnourished," adds Dr. Belbeisi and, "illness such as severe gastroenteritis were prevalent." Shocked by the devastation of Sudan, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan established the Jordanian National Committee to aid drought victims in that stricken country shortly after he returned from a fact finding mission in September 1985. Headed by the Crown Prince and directed by Dr. Ahmad Salam Ahadi, the committee set about raising funds within Jordan.

"The campaign started with donations from people, agencies and industries," explains Dr. Ahadi. Initially JD 750,000 were collected as well as clothes and blankets. The Crown Prince also contacted the Islamic Bank of Jeddah who gave assistance to the Jordanian effort, he adds. Apart from the public donations the Jordanian government has supplied experts, who are



Jordanian health care workers in a Sudanese village

managing the highly effective Jordanian projects in Sudan. The Jordanian efforts, explains Dr. Ahadi, are expected to last two to three years. Jordanians in Sudan include a team of medical experts, a group of health care workers and engineers. With the conclusion of the Jordanian mission's work completed projects are to be handed over to the relevant Sudanese departments.

The major thrust of the Jordanian effort is directed towards the rehabilitation of Kass, a village south west of Nalla in the central governorate of Sudan. The first Jordanian medical team arrived in the village in October 1985. Medical staff are exchanged every two and a half months.

The rehabilitation programme includes restructuring of the infrastructure of the area. An agricultural school is to be established, an electrical network for Kass is being initiated as well as a series of wells which will provide the area with clean water. A refuse disposal system is to be developed outside the village. The Nalla airport, essential to

Jordanian efforts as all personnel, materials and medicine must be flown into the remote region, is to be maintained.

The first plane carrying Jordanian aid arrived in Khartoum on Oct. 5, 1985, carrying a wide variety of drugs as well as blankets, all to the value of \$100,000. Half was unloaded in the capital city and the rest flown to Kass. The second plane landed three days later also in Khartoum with medicine, drugs, bandages, and plaster, half of which remained with the rest being flown on to Nalla. The third plane of Oct. 28, carried the first Jordanian medical team as well as seven tonnes of medical and other equipment valued at \$120,000. The fourth plane of November 1985 included all types of vaccinations, five tonnes of medicine, 2.5 tonnes of agricultural disinfectant and five tonnes of canned foods. All the subsequent flights, at two monthly intervals, carried medicine and other needed essentials.

The physical environment of Kass, although naturally beautiful, has been rendered impoverished by uncontrollable physical circumstances. Housing is primitive, dwellings are mud based and covered with hay or twigs moulded into a pyramidal shape. Storage of water causes significant difficulties for the inhabitants and disposal of liquid refuse traditionally in shallow ditches presents a significant health hazard.

Many of the major medical problems in the Kass district are directly related to environmental factors. The most common afflictions are malaria, the result of inadequate water storage and treatment; colic of the thyroid gland due to a shortage of iodine in the local water supply; typhoid-gastro intestinal diseases; tape worm; hepatitis; measles; meningitis; whooping cough; pneumonia; T.B.; multiple complications following delivery; leishmania; hilaerzia; and trachoma.

When the Jordanian team arrived at Kass, they found a primitive hospital run by untrained nurses, says Dr. Belbeisi. The hospital had no equipment and very little medicine available. The Jordanian medical mission then set about maintaining the hospital, painting, replacing doors and windows, installing electricity and furnishing the hospital with beds and blankets as well as refurbishing the all important operation room and laboratory. Costs of hospital improvements rose to 60,000 Sudanese pounds and equipment purchases amounted to 100,000 Sudanese pounds.

The number of patients attended to every day by Jordanian doctors is staggering. "Initially 1000 people were seen at the out-patients clinic daily," says Dr. Belbeisi, "and around 150 surgical operations were performed monthly." Presently around 500 people attend out patients clinics and the number of operations remains the same.

The team of Jordanian doctors at Kass, says Dr. Ahadi, "consists of eight doctors, four specialists including a surgeon, one internist, an obstetrician/gynaecologist and anaesthetist. Accompanying each team are a staff nurse, a lab technician and a general health worker plus three nursing aids.

The day of the hospital staff is extremely busy. The morning

starts with the out-patients clinic. Later on in the day, "the team attends to the activities of the hospital — operations, post operative care and so on. The forty beds of the hospital are permanently full, as soon as a patient leaves, another takes his or her place."

Each Jordanian mission also includes mother and child clinic workers as well as a team for vaccination of children. The campaign has been highly successful with around 50 children being immunised daily. The workers travel by land-rovers to remote areas often inaccessible to Kass. The mother and child clinics see between 70 and 100 patients per day and advise mothers on nutrition feeding and health care of their infants.

The village of Zalinge, a leper colony about 170 kilometres west of Kass is also supported by the Jordanian medical mission. With around 4000 inhabitants the colony is now provided with blankets and medicine. Accompanying the seventh mission was a skin specialist and two nurses, says Dr. Ahadi. The progress of leprosy can be halted with medical treatment. However, the problem is a major one for Africa which has around 10 million leprosy victims with around 50,000 in Sudan, adds Dr. Belbeisi.

In the remote town of Karima, the Jordanian mission also provides assistance. The village is "one of the saddest," he has ever seen, says Dr. Belbeisi. Many of the inhabitants are refugees and their poverty, dictated by both political and climatic circumstances beyond control, makes them one of the most impoverished groups throughout the area.

Although the most immediate impact of Jordan's relief work in Sudan is seen in the medical field, the Kingdom has made several other dramatic contributions to the improvement of the Kass district. Malaria control was viewed as an important factor in upgrading the region. Specialists from the Ministry of Health were sent during the third and fourth missions to spray the district extensively during the rainy season, when the disease is most prevalent. The Jordanians working, employing Sudanese, spray infected areas and disinfect wells with chlorine. "The project spans four months each year and the teams work from dawn to dusk," says Dr. Belbeisi.

In addition to spraying, the Jordanian team teaches the citizens of Kass the correct storage of water and how to maintain its cleanliness. A team of Jordanian army engineers and surveyors are to construct a network of pipes for a water supply system. The work includes plans, surveys and cost estimates. Whilst the Jordanians provide the engineering and construction skills, the Islamic Bank for Development is to donate the required pipes and equipment.

An electricity network is also included in the Jordanian plans for Kass. It will service the town and most importantly the hospital, clinics and an agricultural school which should be finalised by 1988.

"Letters from grateful Sudanese arrive at our office daily," says Dr. Belbeisi, "thanking His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the medical mission. "Many ask that we establish a programme similar to Kass in their town or district."

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — Dec. 13, 1986

8:30 You Again
Uncle Randy

9:10 Sat. Variety Show

10:20 Feature Film
Brides of Dracula

Starring: David Peel
Pier Conching

Baron Meinster, a disciple of Dracula, is locked up by his mother; but a servant lets him out and he goes on the rampage in a girls' school.

Sun. — Dec. 14, 1986

8:30 Sorry

9:10 Doc. — The Story of S.O.E.

Englandspiel

In a side-street of The Hague, on the evening of Friday March 6, 1942, German Security Police arrested a young Dutchman — SOE's first Dutch radio-operator — Hub Lauwers. In return for his life he persuaded Lauwers to transmit messages to London. So began a radio-game that the Germans called the Englandspiel. It was to last two years, cost the lives of 54 agents, and leave the Dutch resistance impotent. What went wrong? And why did the 'game' last so long? Only three agents caught in the Englandspiel, including Lauwers, survive today. They and the SS Sturmbannführer who arrested them tell the tragic story.

10:20 Play
Silas Marner

The story of a man leading a lonely embittered life who is brought back to the warmth of human

company and self-respect by the innocence and love of a small child. This new found happiness is then threatened when the child's true father comes to reclaim her. Will Silas be left alone again?

Mon. — Dec. 15, 1986

8:30 No Place Like Home

9:10 The Count of Monte Cristo

New Mini-Series
A classic tale read by students for over 100 years, this exciting story traces one man's journey from vengeance to victory. Edmond Dantes, a handsome young sailor, skillfully brings his ship back to France after its captain dies en route. As a reward for his seamanship, he is promised a captainship of his own. However, before he can get his ship, he becomes the victim of a conspiracy. Dantes is abducted and secretly imprisoned at the infamous Chateau d'If, a prison from which no one has ever escaped.

10:20 Strangers and Brothers

Lewis Eliot and his second wife, Margaret, are invited to dinner with the Quafes — Roger Quafie is an up and coming Tory MP and Caro his wife. A general election is just around the corner, and it is expected that Quafie will be offered a position in the government.

Tue. — Dec. 16, 1986

8:30 Music Box

9:30 Yes, Prime Minister
The Key

Territorial battle breaks out as Sir Humphrey relocates the office of the Prime Minister's political adviser, who in turn tells the Prime



Strangers and Brothers — Monday at 10:20

Minister that he is letting Sir Humphrey become too dominant. In the crossfire, Bernard, the principal private secretary, considers opposing Sir Humphrey for the first time.

10:20 Simon and Simon

Wed. — Dec. 17, 1986

8:30 Three's Company

9:00 Doc. — Architecture At The Crossroads

Architecture — Quo Vadis?

Which will be the seminal buildings of the 1980s and 1990s? The final programme looks at some of the big projects for Paris, and asks whether the change that architecture is undergoing throughout the world will produce a more humane environment. Will the architecture that is now being built with so much optimism lead towards a brighter future — or will it prove just a passing fashion?

9:30 Brat Farrar

10:20 Roanoke

Several months have passed. The English, successful in their negotiations with Wingma, have built a fort and a small settlement. As the summer passes, White and Harriot learn much from the Roanokes and neighbouring

Thurs. — Dec. 18, 1986

8:30 Check It Out

9:10 Falcon Crest

10:20 Feature Film
The Inside Man

Starring:
Dennis Hopper

A Swedish scientist steals an advanced laser system and tries to sell it to a Soviet agent. The American and Swedish secret services discover the plot and chase them through Sweden.

Fri. — Dec. 19, 1986

9:10 Best Seller

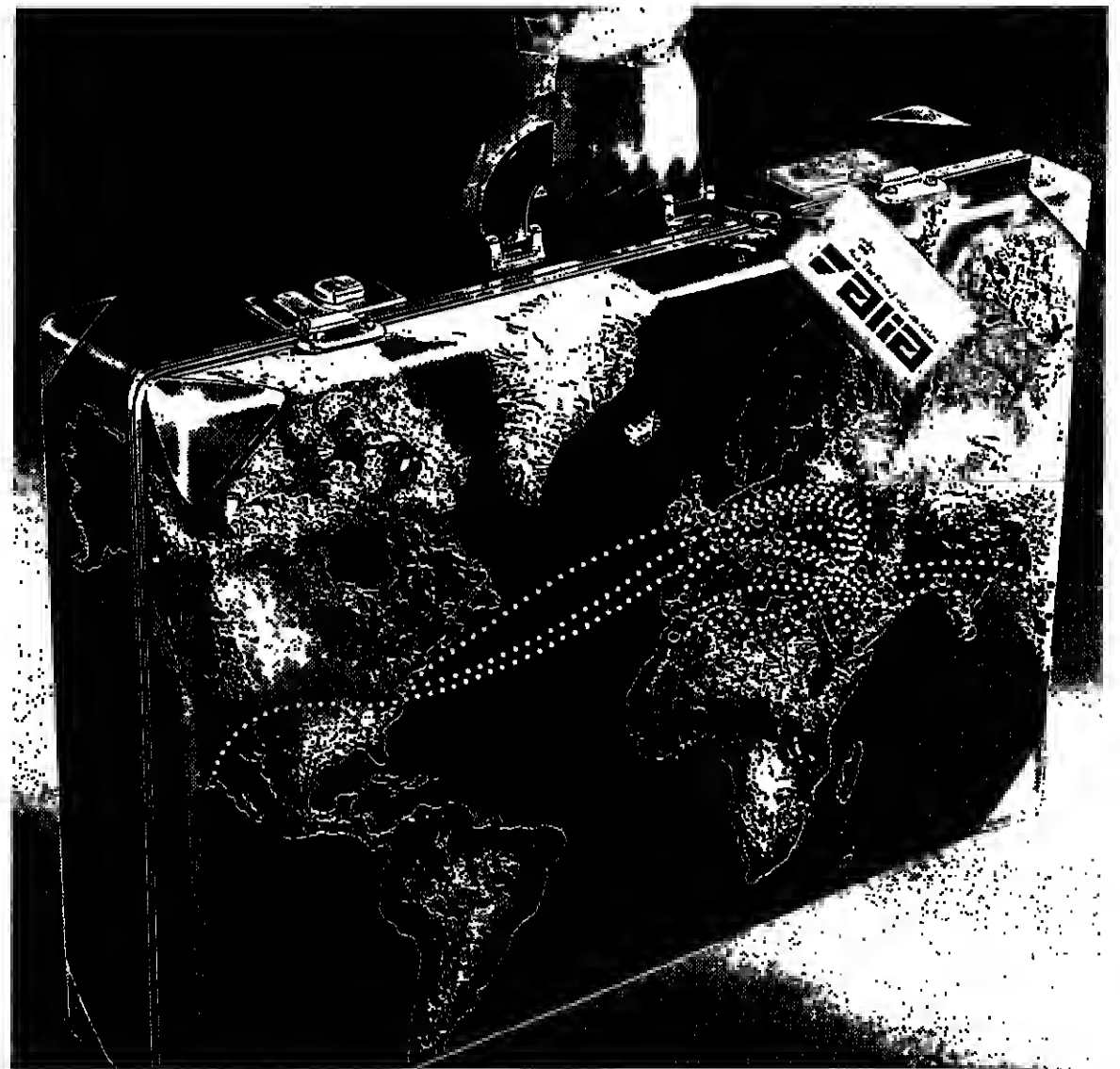
The Dark Secret
of Harvest Home

Starring:
Bette Davis
David Ackroyd

The dreams of a young family are transformed into a nightmare as they discover the ominous evil behind a small town's quaint custom — the ritualistic murder and corruption that lurk beneath the surface of their neighbour's smiles.

10:20 Sherlock Holmes

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Defending champions Edberg, Jarryd advance in Masters

LONDON (AP) — Defending champions Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd of Sweden moved into the semifinals of the \$255,000 Masters Doubles Tennis Championships Friday, eliminating South Africans Dannie Visser and Christo Steyn 5-7, 6-3, 7-6, 6-2.

Both pairs went into the match with a 1-1 record in the round robin tournament and needed another victory to clinch a place in the last four.

First blood went to Visser and Steyn, who broke Jarryd's serve in the 11th game and served out the opening set. The Swedes hit straight back and levelled the match after gaining an early break.

The turning point came towards the end of the third set, which had been dominated by the server. The first break point of the set was a set point at 5-6 for the South Africans, but they couldn't take it



Edberg and Jarryd went on to lose the tiebreaker by seven points to four. As they began to overheat and

choose the wrong shots, Visser and Steyn, the tournament's outsiders, lost heart. Each dropped his serve as the Swedes reeled off the last four games.

Edberg and Jarryd, who have not partnered each other since the Davis Cup semifinal in October, said playing well here this week was a big tonic for the final of the prestigious team tennis tournament against Australia in Melbourne later this month.

Jarryd, for whom the latter part of the season has been wrecked by two knee injuries, was especially looking forward to helping his team retain their Davis Cup title, which has been in Sweden's possession for the past two years.

"It's very important for me," Jarryd said. "It's the one thing I really want to do. I'm going to try to play singles as well as doubles. I'm getting more confident with every match."



The General Secretariat of the Arab Sports Federations met Thursday and Friday at the Royal Cultural Centre, with Minister of Youth Ekl Dahiyat chairing the meeting. From left to right, Jawdat Abdul Muneem, president of the Arab Squash Federation, Rafiqun Assad, general secretary of the Arab Sports Federations, Minister of Youth Dahiyat, Saleh Al Qabisi, representative from the Arab League, and Mohammad Jamil Abu Tayib, director of the Jordan Youth Organisation.

Arab sports secretariat concludes 2-day meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 8th meeting for the General Secretariat of Arab Sports Federations was concluded here Friday at the Royal Cultural Centre with the participants emphasising the importance of exchanging experiences and information among Arab countries. The two-day meeting began here Thursday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and was opened by Minister of Youth Ekl Dahiyat who deputised for the Crown Prince.

The participants discussed arrangements and agenda for the next meeting which is scheduled to be held in December 1987, either in Baghdad or Tunis. The meeting also discussed the implementation of recommendations from the 7th meeting held in Riyadh in 1985.

activities and programmes of Arab sports federations for the next year as well as the distribution of aids to Arab sports federations from an Arab League fund for sports and youth activities.

In its recommendations, the conference also stressed the necessity of maintaining the existing cooperation with international sports federations. The participants also recommended that aid from the fund which was scheduled to be granted this year to the Arab swimming and weight lifting federations be withheld until the two federations lift their boycott on Egyptian teams.

Taking part in the meeting were 19 Arab sports federations. The meeting is held annually in December.

Weightlifter's defection sparks diplomatic row

MELBOURNE (R) — Angry Bulgarian officials have accused Australia of conspiracy in the defection of world champion weightlifter Naum Shalamanov to Turkey.

Shalamanov, 19, left Australia Friday for Ankara amid a bitter diplomatic row over his decision to go to Turkey, where he has been granted political asylum.

Shalamanov, an ethnic Turk, disappeared last Sunday from a Melbourne restaurant where he and the Bulgarian team were celebrating his World Cup victory.

The president of the Bulgarian Weightlifting Federation, Christo Meranzov, said he was convinced Shalamanov, known in Turkey as Naim Suleymanov, had been kidnapped.

Meranzov said he had sent five protest notes to the Australian government since Shalamanov went missing but there had been no response.

"Do you think what happened to Shalamanov is a good advertisement for freedom and law in Australia? I have my doubts," he told a press conference.

Meranzov said he had Shalamanov's passport and personal belongings. He played a tape to reporters of Shalamanov's brother appealing for him to come home and produced telexes from his father, asking officials to bring him back.

The 1.5 metre (4 ft. 11 ins.) tall weightlifter is a sporting hero in Bulgaria for winning the World Cup an unprecedented three years running.

The Australian government initially said Shalamanov was seeking political asylum in Australia after he contacted police from his hiding place.

But a foreign ministry spokesman said Shalamanov had contacted police again Thursday night to tell them he planned to fly to Ankara where Turkish authorities had granted a request for asylum.

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A LITTLE SEX

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Cinema **OPERA** Tel: 675573

THE REPORT

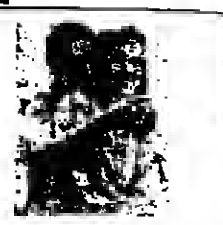
(Arabic)



Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

FALLING IN LOVE



Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAGHADAN** Tel: 622198

THE MIGHTY GIANT

Performances 12:15, 3:45, 5:45, 8:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4255/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3783/88	Canadian dollars
	2.2030/40	West German marks
	2.2880/90	Dutch guilders
	1.6980/90	Swiss francs
	42.08/13	Belgian francs
	6.6375/6425	French francs
	1403.14/04	Italian lire
	163.10/20	Japanese yen
	6.9750/9850	Swedish crowns
	7.6050/6150	Norwegian crowns
	7.6450/6550	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	389.90/390.40	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities drifted lower throughout the session after a slightly firmer opening but business was quiet and selling interest small, dealers said.

Prices were helped initially by a Bank of England forecast that crude oil prices will rise to \$20 a barrel by early 1988, if OPEC can maintain some output restraint.

Dealers said there have been some indications from the current OPEC meeting that member countries may be moving towards a reduction in output but some in the market are still sceptical that a positive agreement can be reached. At 1530 GMT Friday the FTSE 100 was down 5.2 points at 1,628.8.

The market showed little reaction to news that U.K. retail prices rose 0.8 per cent in November for a year on year increase of 3.5 per cent. Dealers said the figure was basically in line with expectations.

Oils were helped by hopes of higher crude prices but were off the highs after news that Saudi Arabia had made no offer of an oil output reduction to the OPEC conference in Geneva. B.P. gained 7p to 688 after 695 and Shell 6p to 954 after 963.

Rich Chinese to pay income tax next year

PEKING (AP) — Chinese citizens who have become prosperous under China's economic reforms will have to pay an income tax after Jan. 1 under a new law aimed at narrowing the growing gap between the rich and poor, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Thursday.

"The current policy of encouraging people to get rich will continue," Xinhua said. "But there still must be a new tax to prevent the income gap from becoming too wide."

China's economic reforms have made it possible for some people to earn excessively high incomes, straining the supply of goods, Xinhua said.

Under the new law, the tax rate and taxable part of people's incomes will vary among China's 11 wage zones. China has a system of paying different wages to workers of the same rank in different zones where living conditions and prices vary.

In Peking, the tax at progressive rates will be levied on a person's monthly income if it exceeds 400 yuan (\$108), Xinhua said. The average worker's income in Peking is about 160 yuan (\$43) a month.

Xinhua said the new tax will cover wages and other income, including that from contracting specific tasks, transfers of contracts and patents, labour services, property leasing,

interest, dividends and bonuses.

Until now, China has avoided levying an income tax that could put a damper on the growth of its fledgling private entrepreneur and rural industry sectors, which have provided badly needed services and goods and absorbed surplus labour.

Private entrepreneurs have complained that they already are forced to pay unfair taxes and fees on their businesses.

However, while more risky than jobs in state-run industries, private business has provided an opportunity for some people to make many more times the money they could get at state jobs.

The difference has caused resentment and envy among officials and workers accustomed to the near-equal wages that prevailed for decades under communist rule.

The government has said there is nothing wrong with some people getting rich before others, but also has pledged that to avoid the large discrepancies in incomes in capitalist countries, it would not allow the gap between incomes to get too large.

The government in recent months has expressed concern that the economic gap is growing between some more developed areas, particularly along the east coast, that have flourished under the reforms and more backward inland areas.

Israel gives oil search concession to Isramco

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has awarded its first offshore oil prospecting concession to the Isramco Company in coastal waters adjacent to the Egyptian town of Al Arish, industry sources said Thursday.

The 4,050-square kilometre concession is next to the Mango field off Al Arish, where the French oil company Total says it has found a productive field.

Isramco, which is quoted on the New York Stock Exchange, said it has committed \$19.2 million over three years to do seismic studies and development experiments at the offshore field.

American oil tycoon Armand Hammer, president of Occidental Petroleum, has taken a personal interest in Isramco, the sources said.

Israel developed Egyptian oilfields in the Sinai desert during its 15-year occupation of the peninsula which ended in 1982, but it produces no oil of its own and currently imports most of its oil from Egypt.

Isramco also has a vast 8,100-square kilometre concession in the Israeli Negev Desert and is about to start test drilling at the Agur-B site in the northern Negev where it has hopes of a commercially viable hydrocarbon field, the sources said.

They gave no figures for possible quantities of oil and gas.

Manila wins moratorium from banks

MANILA (R) — The Philippines, struggling to repay interest on its huge foreign debt, has won a three-month breathing space, Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin said Friday.

He said an advisory committee representing 483 commercial creditors had agreed to a three-month moratorium starting next month on the payment of debts due between 1987 and 1992.

He told reporters the moratorium would give the Philippines time to negotiate a rescheduling of the \$3.6 billion debt due over the next six years.

The government stopped repaying the principal on debts in October 1983 during a severe financial crisis but continues to pay interest on its total foreign debt of \$26 billion.

Debt rescheduling talks with the 12-bank advisory committee were suspended last month after one bank on the committee refused to go along with the others in granting the Philippines terms similar to those given to Mexico.

Manila had earlier threatened a unilateral moratorium unless the impasse was resolved.

The committee met on its own in New York Thursday and agreed to endorse a three-month debt repayment standstill, Mr. Ongpin said.

Optimism builds on OPEC's readiness to reach accord

GENEVA (R) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) may reach a quick decision to push world prices higher by making further cuts in the amount of oil produced by the 13-nation group, delegates said.

Oil analysts were surprised at the buoyant mood after Thursday's first full session of the Geneva meeting of OPEC. It has met six times this year to try to lift oil prices from levels which are crippling many members' economies.

The ministers met for just four hours Thursday but their comments suggested they were making rapid progress. "This could be a very short meeting," Venezuelan Oil Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti told reporters.

Conference President Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria, in an opening speech, said increasing crude prices would require further sacrifices from all members, indicating a cut in production was necessary.

The oil market, anxious for signals from the Geneva meeting, reacted positively, sending prices up by about 40 cents a barrel. In New York, crude oil for January loading was quoted at \$15.50 per barrel, up 37 cents on the day.

"There was a lot of hype in the market because of all the positive statements," said one U.S. oil expert.

The markets were also buoyed by unconfirmed reports that Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest producer, had indicated it would join cuts in production from the present, self-imposed ceiling for the group around 17 million barrels per day (b/d).

But many analysts attending the conference doubted that OPEC could achieve in a few days what it has spent more than 40 years arguing over this year — impose self-discipline and produce as much as it says it will.

The group's last meeting in October lasted a marathon 17 days and achieved a modest extension of an accord adopted in September to cut production. The present agreement expires on Dec. 31.

The September agreement reversed a collapse in the price of oil. Crude 12 months ago was trading at about \$30 a barrel. It plunged to around \$9 in the summer after OPEC adopted a policy of clawing back market share it had lost to other oil producers by pumping at

maximum levels.

The discipline introduced in September and October impressed oil markets, and spot market prices have gradually crept up to around \$15.

At a meeting last month in Quito, an OPEC committee approved a Saudi Arabian-sponsored proposal to introduce a fixed price of \$18. This meeting is being held to see if OPEC can take the necessary decisions to achieve that price.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh set the ball rolling with a call for ten per cent cuts in OPEC production — a move analysts say would lift the crude price — and the proponents of lower output appear to have the upper hand.

But the key player, Saudi Arabia, has yet to give its view of production cuts, a policy move awaited anxiously by oil markets as it is to be taken by new Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, who has replaced sacked OPEC veteran, Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani.

Sheikh Nazer has made a mixed impression on seasoned OPEC watchers. He has uttered few words to the media gathered in Geneva and delegates say his contribution so far at the two ministerial sessions has been limited to formalities.

Analysts warned against over-optimism, recalling previous OPEC conferences where initial euphoria turned sour overnight. Some said an agreement to cut output reached in days could be broken just as quickly.

Norway likely to cut output next month

Meanwhile, the Oslo daily newspaper Aftenposten said Friday that Oil and Energy Minister Arne Oeien is expected to call for an eight to nine per cent reduction in Norway's oil production from early next month in a bid to help OPEC lift oil prices to \$18 a barrel.

Mr. Oeien, in an interview with Norwegian radio Friday, would neither confirm nor deny the report. He said no formal decision would be taken on the matter until after the Norwegian government had met in the new year.

Losses for this year alone are evaluated at just over \$100 billion (for OPEC as a whole) compared to the official price of \$28 a barrel in force in 1985, the paper said.

"For Algeria, which earns 98 per cent of its foreign exchange from the export of hydrocarbons, initial estimates reveal a loss of between \$5 and \$6 billion out of the \$12 billion originally expected," it added.

"The destabilisation of the world oil market in the first six months of this year has caused very serious prejudice to oil exporting countries by depriving them unjustly of large financial resources," the paper said.

On Nov. 1, Norway, which is not a member of OPEC, cut its oil exports by between 80,000 to 90,000 b/d.

It had agreed in August to help the group boost oil prices by storing 10 per cent of its oil exports in a contingency reserve for the months of November and December.

Storage capacity will be reached by Jan. 1, however, making production restraints the only viable option to extending the present export restrictions. Aftenposten said.

Norway, Europe's second largest oil producer after Britain, pumped 1,017 million b/d in November, some 44,500 b/d more than in the previous month, offshore field operators said.

Mr. Oeien said the decision to continue cooperation with OPEC hinged on whether the organisation could agree and enforce new measures to lift oil prices to a "reasonable" level.

Mr. Oeien has earlier warned that Norway might drop its temporary export curbs from Jan. 1 if OPEC failed to agree measures to maintain or raise oil prices.

Algerian newspaper urges end to price wars

In Algiers, the Algerian government daily Al Moudjahid said the current OPEC meeting in Geneva should end what it called "the disastrous policy of price wars" which had cost members over \$100 billion this year.

The newspaper said the Geneva meeting was the most important in five years and "in principle it ought to put a final stop to the disastrous policy of price wars by returning definitively to the organisation's traditional price-fixing policy."

"Losses for this year alone are evaluated at just over \$100 billion (for OPEC as a whole) compared to the official price of \$28 a barrel in force in 1985," the paper said.

"For Algeria, which earns 98 per cent of its foreign exchange from the export of hydrocarbons, initial estimates reveal a loss of between \$5 and \$6 billion out of the \$12 billion originally expected," it added.

"The destabilisation of the world oil market in the first six months of this year has caused very serious prejudice to oil exporting countries by depriving them unjustly of large financial resources," the paper said.

European Parliament rejects '87 budget

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — The European Parliament on Thursday refused to adopt a 1987 budget proposal for the European Community (EC), raising the specter of a financial crisis for the 12-nation trade bloc.

The move expressed the parliament's protest against the failure of the 12 EC states to reduce the EC's runaway farm spending and provide for the disposal of surplus food.

Afterwards, EC Budget Commissioner Henning

Christophersen said the EC Commission, which runs the day-to-day affairs of the trade bloc, "insists that the budgetary procedures must be completed as soon as possible."

If not, he said, several programmes would suffer for lack of funds, including cancer research, food aid, social programmes for the Mediterranean region and all new research.

The chairman of the parliament's budget committee,

French Socialist Jean-Pierre Cot, said the vote reflected the parliament's disagreement with the member governments "over major policy issues."

In a hectic morning session, the parliament added some 151 million European Currency Units (\$158 million) to the draft budget of 36.2 billion European Currency Units (\$38.1 billion) proposed by the EC governments.

This, in effect, rendered the measure invalid under EC rules.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 13, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a Saturday to occupy yourself with the details of money and possessions. Make an analysis of your assets and liabilities and devise a plan for more efficiency.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study your possessions carefully and know how to improve and add to them. Make any needed property repairs.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) It's a fine day to get your charm enhanced at the beauty parlor or barber shop and to take health treatments.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get at all those unfinished little jobs you have been neglecting and clear the decks for important matters.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Study your personal wishes and then plan your time so that you can gain them and get your work done.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get into the community and credit matters that await your attention. Not a good day to ask for favors.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Although you are planning to expand your interests, delays may come up. Show patience and persevere.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you handle responsibilities, you'll make progress. Not a good day to try to solve a problem with your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You may find it hard to reach an agreement with a partner, but sow the seed of your idea and wait awhile.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Keep rooted to Saturday routines even though you have far greater things on your mind now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Take some time to set up appointments for recreation and discuss them with your mate.

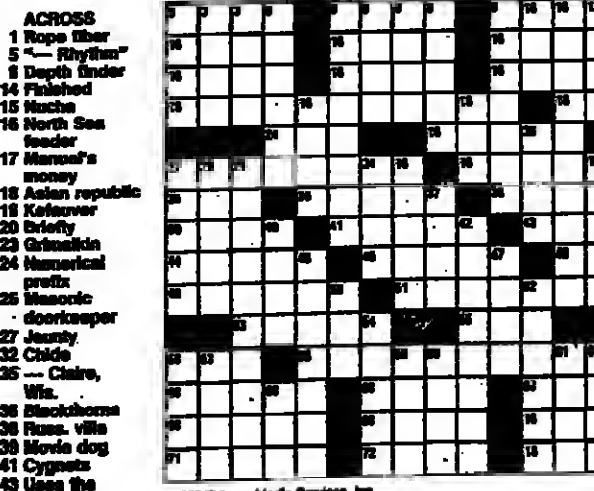
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Avoid arguments that could bring out the stubborn streak in you. Don't invite new acquaintances into your home.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may find it hard to locate the articles you need, but do your best and you'll still accomplish a good deal.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very charming but will also be stubborn and unyielding. You will have to teach this one to listen to the ideas of others and to be more broad-minded. A good education is important here. Much success is possible in the practical world.

THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Counts

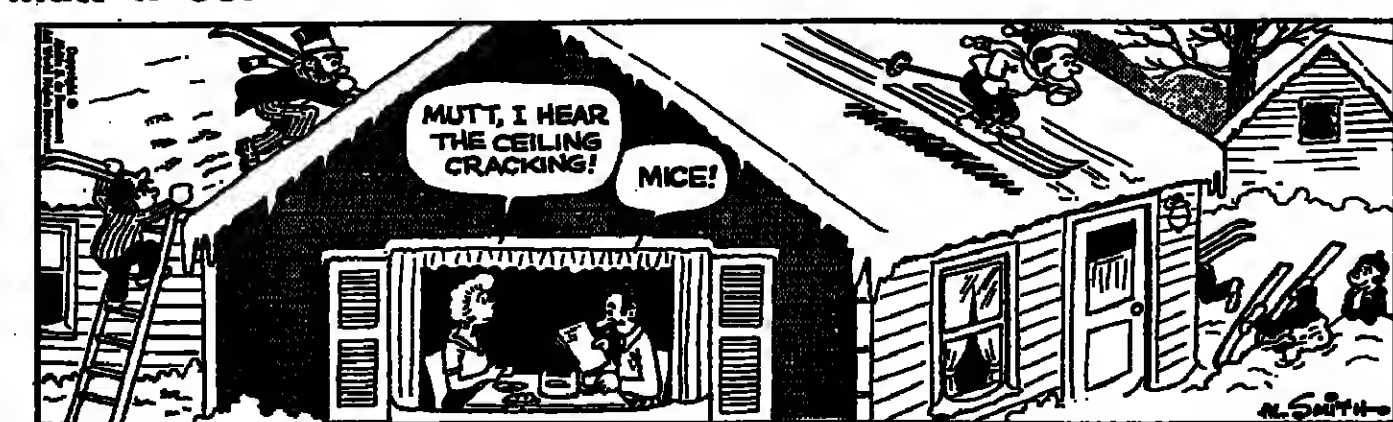


- ACROSS
1. Rope that
 2. "Theater"
 3. Depth under
 4. Finished
 5. Hatch
 6. North Sea
 7. Marmite's
 8. mason
 9. Asian republic
 10. Kite over
 11. Bitter
 12. Geminid
 13. Numerical
 14. profits
 15. masonic
 16. newspaper
 17. Junco
 18. Child
 19. Chair
 20. U.S.
 21. Blackboard
 22. Race, ville
 23. Movie dog
 24. Cyprian
 25. Uses the
 26. slope
 27. Lark
 28. Owl
 29. Before
 30. Rates down
 31. trussing
 32. Gulls and
 33. ems
 34. Less
 35. Fuel
 36. — Arbor
 37. Mich.
 38. Connecticut
 39. Spherical
 40. Follow
 41. security
 42. Edging
 43. Defender
 44. Ship
 45. Brazilian
 46. state
 47. Sea eagle
 48. Cities only
 49. 73
 50. Observed
- DOWN
1. Indian
 2. Level
 3. Tabloid
 4. At once
 5. JFK e.g.
 6. Piles
 7. Oceanic
 8. Beef fish
 9. Dogma
 10. Was steady
 11. There are
 12. two in 100
 13. — "Sub"
 14. Cruising
 15. Outlet
 16. Coffee makers
 17. 22 Ad —
 18. Time periods
 19. Secret
 20. agreements
 21. Spills into
 22. Sweet seeds
 23. Army's
 24. state
 25. Brings up
 26. Fraction
 27. Railroad
 28. Soldier
 29. To — (usually)
 30. Markedly
 31. common
 32. SNO pattern
 33. Desert
 34. clouds
 35. Ex-citer
 36. Brule
 37. Agave fibers
 38. Flower
 39. coconut
 40. Desert
 41. duster
 42. 57
 43. 58
 44. 59
 45. 60
 46. 61
 47. 62
 48. 63
 49. 64
 50. 65

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

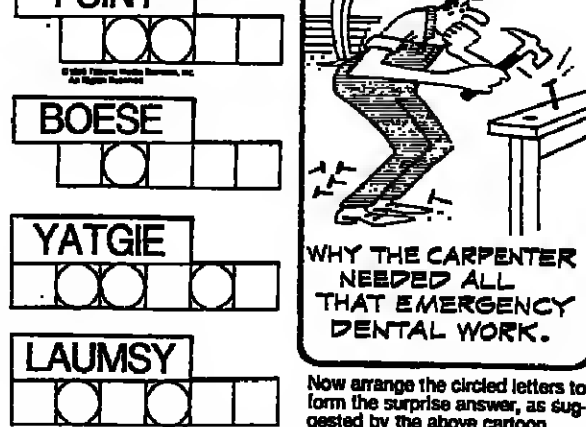


JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: HE [] HIS []

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHOOP BORAX INJECT HAMMER

Answer: What kind of a problem did the captain face? — A "MAJOR" ONE

Ramos warns against rebel violations

MANILA (R) — Armed Forces Chief Fidel Ramos said Friday the government would not tolerate any further ceasefire violations by Communist rebels, promptly handing the newly-formed national ceasefire committee its biggest headache of the two-day-old truce.

Gen. Ramos made his comments after a day of mounting military fury over a rebel display of armed strength in a small, northern town Thursday.

Spokesman for President Corason Aquino said she would leave the matter up to the ceasefire committee which is to monitor alleged violations.

A committee spokesman said the incident Thursday "could probably be considered a violation."

About 70 rebels showed up with Soviet and American-made rifles at Samal in the Bataan peninsula to welcome the three Communist negotiators of the ceasefire that went into effect on Wednesday at noon.

Their presence in the town violated what the government said was a ban on weapons being brought into populated areas but Communist negotiators Satur Ocampo, Antonio Zume and Carolina Malay said they had not agreed to a ban.

Gen. Ramos told reporters: "I

do not think the government will tolerate any further confrontational and provocative action as what has taken place in Samal yesterday."

Ailing government ceasefire negotiator Jose Diokno, a respected human rights activist, urged all Filipinos to support the ceasefire and said there were "still groups and factions... who want the ceasefire to fail, who would want to see us Filipinos resort to injuring and killing each other."

Military officials said a part-time member civilian Home Defence Force in Santa Cruz on Mindanao Island was shot dead Thursday by rebels seeking his weapons.

The death was the second reported since the ceasefire came into effect. The first was also on Mindanao, a plantation worker taking part in a Communist peace march in Davao.

The Philippines defence chief accused the Communist side Friday of violating the two-day-old national ceasefire

and warned that if the truce failed, a system of regional pacts might be implemented.

"It is very clear the other side is violating the agreement," Defence Minister Rafael Ilo told foreign business leaders.

Gen. Ilo cited the brandishing of weapons by New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas as a very clear violation of the agreement.

Gen. Ilo, for the first time, said the military would examine alternative arrangements should the national truce not produce positive results.

"We can explore the possibility of a regional ceasefire in which both socio-economic and military approaches are applied at the same time according to the particular security needs of a given region," he said.

In his comments to the local American Chamber of Commerce he also said that pundits who predicted that peace through a national dialogue with the Communists could not succeed might yet be proved wrong.

"Although statistically and historically speaking it has very little chance of pushing through, there is also a chance it might work," said Gen. Ilo, who replaced former Defence Chief Juan Ponce Enrile nearly three weeks ago.

Countering criticism that the military were the losers in the

ceasefire, Gen. Ilo said it had neither lost or gained ground as a result.

Gen. Ramos, using some of the toughest language heard since the ceasefire came into effect, said that the truce was part of a Communist plot to take over the government.

"We have seen countries in our region... that have been overrun because of this pattern of revolutionary warfare which consists of fight, talk, fight, talk," Gen. Ramos said.

He added that any peace that was achieved must not be at the expense of turning the Philippines into another Vietnam or Kampuchea.

Manila newspaper columnists charged that President Corason Aquino had allowed the Communists to take the offensive in the propaganda battle accompanying the ceasefire.

"The strongest propaganda message that has enveloped the country is the NDF message, not that of the government," said frequent Aquino critic Francisco Tatad, an influential columnist for Business Day.

"It means the government has been badly out-maneuvred. Now the NDF is in Manila and has become a real force in the daily conduct of government. The tragedy is that very few seem to realise what it means."

French students vow to continue activism

PARIS (R) — French student leaders, buoyed by their victory in forcing the scrapping of education reforms, vowed Friday to fight other planned government legislation and combat alleged police repression.

They made the pledge at the end of a lengthy final meeting of the national committee which led a three-week campaign against the right-wing government's university reform plans.

The student protest movement, the biggest since the youth revolt of 1968, led to serious street violence that unsettled the government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and forced it to scrap a draft higher education bill.

Student leaders from across France voted after 10 hours of discussion to dissolve the coordinating committee but appealed for students to remain vigilant against police repression and against any attempt to effect reforms similar to those dropped.

Students accuse police of undue violence in breaking up demonstrations over the last week and of beating to death a 22-year-old colleague found dead after a clash in Paris on Friday night.

A resolution at the end of the meeting also urged students to regroup against any attempt by the government to press ahead with reforms of France's nationality code.

A controversial new code,

making it more difficult to obtain French nationality, was one of several measures put on ice after the student unrest.

It was due to be discussed at a special session of the National Assembly planned for next month.

On Monday Mr. Chirac, his authority seriously shaken by the student riots, dropped the special session, effectively postponing debate on the issue until the next regular parliamentary session in April.

"All is not finished for if tomorrow we must defend ourselves we will not be starting from scratch. Nothing will be over the same again," said the students' resolution.

Students at most of France's 72 universities returned to classes Friday after a three-week protest strike.

"The general strike movement has obtained its goal: The complete withdrawal of the Devaquet project," said the declaration, referring to the draft reform bill of Junior Minister for Higher Education Alain Devaquet.

Mr. Devaquet, focus of most of the students' unexpectedly fierce wrath, resigned after Mr. Chirac agreed to scrap the bill.

Denounced as elitist by the students, the bill would have raised university entry fees and allowed individual faculties more say in selecting pupils.

Former MI 5 agent says KGB wanted to kill him

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — An ex-spy catcher whose book Britain seeks to suppress on security grounds said Friday the Soviet would have killed him if they could and alleged Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had refused to hear his evidence on Soviet penetration.

"I think the KGB (the Soviet state security organisation) would have knocked me off if they had had the chance," Peter Wright told the Associated Press in an interview. "Put it like this, I wouldn't have gone behind the iron curtain."

Wright, 71, who retired in 1976 after 20 years in Britain's MI5 counter-intelligence service and went to live in Tasmania, said he felt his life was in greatest danger when he was gathering evidence against Sir Roger Hollis, the director of MI5 from 1956 to 1965.

Wright's MI5 job was tracking down traitors. His book *Spycatcher* alleges among other damaging accusations against MI5 that Hollis, who died in 1973, was a Soviet spy.

The same accusation against Hollis was made by British journalist Chapman Pincher in his book *Theirs is the Trickery* published in 1981. Wright said that ex-MI5 officer Lord Rothschild paid his air fare to London in 1980 so that he could

collaborate with Pincher on *Their Trickery*.

Mrs. Thatcher told parliament in 1981 after publication of Pincher's book that intelligence chiefs had investigated Hollis but found no conclusive proof he was a traitor.

Wright said this week that friends in the London intelligence community had told him British authorities planned to arrest him under the official secrets act if he ever returned home. He has a son, a daughter and four grandchildren in Britain.

He said he wanted to return home before he died but that he doubted he would because of the threat of arrest. "I often wonder if I returned now whether she (Mrs. Thatcher) would dare do it. I really would turn the tap on if she did that," he said.

"Asked if he thought the British government would try to persuade U.S. authorities to stop him entering the United States if he ever decided to visit there, Wright said: "Yes, but I don't think such an attempt would be successful."

"The CIA (the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency) have their own system of vetting books by their former agents, and hundreds of them have been published. I don't think they would feel they have anything to fear from me," he said.

Zambia cancels corn meal price hike

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — President Kenneth Kaunda has rescinded a planned 120 per cent increase in the price of corn meal after violent protests in the capital and the northern copper-mining region that killed at least 15 people.

Mr. Kaunda said Thursday night on national radio and television that "hooliganism of the worst kind" forced him to restore the subsidies. But, he said, social services and development programmes would be adjusted to compensate for the subsidy.

He also said the milling industry, much of it already

government-run, would be nationalised.

A government official said Friday that at least 15 people had been killed and more than 80 injured since Monday in demonstrations, looting and arson triggered by the price hike. He spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with government regulations.

No disturbances were reported Friday.

Local journalists said the victims included two alleged looters shot to death by show owners, a police officer beaten to death by rioters and eight or 10 people killed by army and police

gunfire.

The government announced last week it was ending subsidies on corn meal, a staple food. The price jumped from \$3.80 for a 110-pound bag to \$8.20, more than many workers earn in a month.

Protests began Monday in nine cities and towns in the northern copper mining region, and spread to Lusaka on Thursday.

Thousands of youths gathered at a shopping centre in the capital and smashed windows before being dispersed by police using tear gas. Local reporters said many protesters were arrested.

Gorbachev, Najibullah start talks

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Afghan leader Najibullah began talks in Moscow Friday expected to focus on efforts to resolve the crisis in Afghanistan, the official Soviet News Agency TASS said.

Najibullah arrived Thursday night on his first visit to Moscow since replacing Babrak Karmal as Afghan Communist Party leader last May. Moscow has set a tone of relative optimism for the talks by saying prospects look good for resolving the crisis.

Speaking to reporters Thursday, a Soviet spokesman said Moscow sought an equitable settlement in Afghanistan and wanted to withdraw its troops as soon as possible.

He qualified his statement, however, by saying any solution would require an end to outside interference — a reference to aid supplied to anti-Communist guerrillas fighting Kabul by the United States, Pakistan, Iran and other countries.

"A genuine and real opportunity now exists for untangling the knot and solving the problem around Afghanistan," Foreign Ministry spokesman Boris Pyadyshchev said.

"We are witnessing favourable conditions which could lead to a political settlement and we can assume that this issue will be discussed quite intensively tomorrow."

China protests to India over creation of new state

PEKING (R) — China Friday protested to India over New Delhi's decision to form a new state in the remote disputed territory of Arunachal Pradesh and warned of serious repercussions.

A bill ratified on Tuesday by India's parliament made the territory on its north east border with China into the country's 24th state but granted the governor special powers over law and order because of its strategic position.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement, carried by the official New China News Agency, said the establishment of the state was

"absolutely illegal."

"It is entirely futile for the Indian authorities to try to legitimise its occupation of Chinese territory through domestic legislation and the consequences arising therefrom will be serious," the statement said, without elaborating.

The 81,500 square kilometre territory, with a population of about 620,000, was run directly by India's central government until given statehood.

In August, India accused China of violating the territory's northern frontier, the latest in a series of incidents since the 1962 Sino-Indian border war.

W. German president's secretary charged with treason

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Prosecutors have charged a former secretary in the president's office with treason, saying she had worked as a key Soviet spy since 1971.

When she was arrested last year, investigators described former presidential secretary Margaret Hoeke, 51, as a "small fish."

But chief Federal Prosecutor Kurt Rebmann said Thursday that Ms. Hoeke is accused of passing along information from thousands of confidential government documents to her superiors in Moscow. Mr. Rebmann called it "an especially serious case."

Authorities also announced Thursday the arrest of a senior Defence Ministry aide on suspicion of spying for East Germany, a Soviet ally.

But prosecutors emphasised that the official — whose security sources identified as Jürgen Westphal, 48 — was arrested before he could pass any secrets.

As a secretary to President Richard von Weizsäcker, Ms. Hoeke was one of the most important suspected spies to be arrested during a 1985 espionage scandal that rocked the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Fifteen people suspected of spying for the Soviet Bloc either disappeared or were arrested between August and December 1985.

The most notorious was Hans-Joachim Tiedge, the former West German intelligence officer in charge of tracking down East German spies. He defected to East Germany four days before Ms. Hoeke's arrest on Aug. 25, 1985.

Ms. Hoeke will go on trial early next year in Düsseldorf, Mr. Rebmann said.

Ms. Hoeke had access to classified and top-secret documents from the Foreign, Interior and Defence ministries as well as the foreign intelligence agency, according to the federal prosecutor.

She allegedly received for her work 33,000 marks (\$16,500), jewellery and free vacations from Communist agents who directed her, Mr. Rebmann said.

West German officials have said she received some of her instructions from Vladimir Karmazan and Rosemarie Mueller, sentenced Thursday in Lucerne, Switzerland, for spying for East Germany.

West Germany has a long history of spy scandals. One of them led to the resignation of then-Chancellor Willy Brandt in 1974.

U.N. chief asked to solve water dispute

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations' drinking-water dispute was passed on to the secretary-general by the General Assembly.

Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chondhury of Bangladesh, president of the current 41st General Assembly, discreetly submerged the issue by getting delegates to agree without a vote to give U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar a free hand in making \$85 million in budgetary cuts to meet the world body's financial crisis.

Among the economies is the elimination of jugs of ice water and trays of glasses for delegates at all assembly committee meetings. The secretariat estimated the cutoff of water

would save \$100,000 a year in manpower and material.

"It was a storm in a water jug," U.N. spokesman Francois Guiliani said of the prolonged debate on the issue in the assembly's Finance Committee last Friday.

The amount of time devoted to the issue proved embarrassing to U.N. officials as they tried demonstrate to Washington their seriousness about cutting costs.

Citing a lack of fiscal responsibility by the General Assembly's majority, the U.S. Congress reduced by more than half the assessed U.S. contribution of \$210 million for 1986.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar is hoping that as much as \$40 million still could be restored if he can impress

Congress with his economy measures.

The right-to-water advocates, led by Pakistan and several African delegates, challenged the secretary's saving claims and sought to have the General Assembly decide on refilling the jugs.

But Mr. Chondhury took the position Thursday that no formal request was before the 159-member assembly and passed over the issue in silence.

During committee debate on the proposed savings last Friday, some delegates complained that while they were deprived of drinking water, jugs were being provided to the chairman and others on the podium.

Duchess of Windsor's jewels to be auctioned

LONDON (R) — The jewels which the Duke of Windsor gave to Wallis Simpson, the woman for whose love he gave up the British throne, will be auctioned in Geneva next April, Sotheby's announced Friday.

It described the sale of diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds as the most important of its kind this century, combining "extraordinary taste, quality, history and, above all, romance."

More than 200 items are on offer and are expected to raise over £5 million (\$7 million) for the Pasteur Institute, Sotheby's said.

The Paris-based centre, which conducts a wide range of biological research and has been at the forefront of the search for a vaccine against the deadly virus AIDS, was named the main beneficiary of the duchess's fortune.

The announcement of the auction came almost 50 years to the day after the duke, then King Edward VIII, abdicated the throne to marry Simpson, an American-born divorcee.

Telling the nation he could not rule without the support of the woman he loved, he stepped down in favour of his brother George VI, father of the present queen, and took the title, Duke of Windsor.

The duchess's death last April sparked controversy over whether her estate included jewels supposed to be crown property, such as the set of emeralds given to her husband by his grandmother Queen Alexandra, when he was still Edward VIII.

But Buckingham Palace sources said any jewels belonging to the duke were returned after the duke's death in 1972. Apart from a few specific bequests, all the jewellery which belonged to the duchess, is included in the sale.

Prospective bidders have a rich choice of 87 pieces by Cartier of the duke and duchess, as well as 23 pieces by Van Cleef and Arpels.

Many of the jewels bear very personal and now historic inscriptions. The duchess's

favourite Van Cleef and Arpels ruby and diamond necklace, a 40th birthday present engraved "My Wallis from her David 1963/36," is included, as well as a sapphire and diamond bracelet inscribed "for our contract 18-V-37" — two weeks before the couple were married.

Several of the famous Cartier "great cat" gems in the form of panther and tiger bracelets and clips, as well as a royal favourite of a sparkling flamingo brooch ablaze with rubies, sapphires, emeralds and diamonds, are in the sale.

Jewellery experts say news of the sale was bound to set the auction and art world buzzing. One possible buyer being tipped is Egyptian financier Mohammed Al-Fayed, billionaire owner of the fashionable London department store Harrods.

Fayed, who also owns the Ritz in Paris, recently took over the lease on the Bois de Boulogne house in Paris which the Windsors occupied in exile. He is planning £2 million (\$2.9 million) renovation of the property.

COLUMNS 768

Charles unscathed in bottle bashing

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana smashed a bottle over Prince Charles' head, but it wasn't a royal spat. The couple staged the fake family feud Thursday on the set of a new James Bond film, *The Living Daylights*. While touring the set at Pinewood Studios near London, Prince Charles watched as stuntman Simon Crane broke what seemed to be a large green wine bottle over the head of stunt arranger Paul Weston. Told the bottle was made of fake glass, the prince promptly picked up another one and broke it over Weston's head. He then persuaded a reluctant Diana to break a synthetic decanter over his head. "I can't, I can't," said Princess Diana, blushing. "I would never be able to do that." But her husband prevailed, and she bashed him on the head. He was unscathed.

Canadian navy uniforms causing a stink

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (R) — New combat uniforms for Canada's 9,100 sailors are causing a stink and production has been put on hold. The fire-retardant uniforms give off an "obnoxious smell" which may cause headaches, Defence Department officials said. A department spokesman said government officials and the subcontractors for the uniforms were trying to determine the cause of the odour. A government official said thousands of square metres of smelly blue cloth valued at about \$2 million had been quarantined in a Montreal locker.

Cat woman takes Vatican to court

VATICAN CITY (R) — A Rome woman banned from feeding the Vatican's 50 wild cats has said she had taken legal action against officials of the Holy See, accusing them of condemning the animals to death. Lidia Sgaraglini fed the wild cats for four years before being banned from entering the Vatican City 10 days ago. Vatican officials refused comment on why her permit to enter the world's smallest state was revoked, but she told Reuters they wanted the animals to die because they were a nuisance. Sgaraglini, 50, said her lawyer had now taken legal action in a Rome court against senior officials headed by Cardinal Sebastiano Baggio, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican state, accusing them of mistreating animals. She said the court had accepted her case but would have to obtain permission from Italy's justice minister to proceed against officials of the Vatican because of its status as a foreign state.

Former star Susan Cabot killed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Susan Cabot-Roman, a former actress, was beaten to death and her 22-year-old son was arrested in the slaying, authorities have said. Police said the son originally blamed a man dressed in the robes of a Japanese Ninja warrior who stole \$70,000. Miss Cabot-Roman, known on stage as Susan Cabot, appeared in several movies, including *On the Beach*, *The Battle of Apache Pass*, *Flame of Araby*, *Tomahawk* and *On the Isle of Samoa*. Her son, Timothy Scott Roman, a college student, was booked for investigation of murder, said police detective Joe Diglio. He was being held without bail.

Stallone to make tamer Rambo films

BEVERLY HILLS, California (R) — Sylvester Stallone, indicating Rambo may be less violent in the future, agreed to give Carolco Pictures Inc. the U.S. home-video and foreign distribution rights for his next 10 feature films. Stallone said the 10 films more than likely would all be action-adventure movies. "When I've stayed from that particular venue I've always been disappointed with the results," he said. The actor also indicated that the Rambo character, which came under much criticism for his violent nature in "Rambo: First Blood Part 2," may be toned down in future movies. "We got into a fantasy thing. I'd like to draw back and try to become significantly more linear and not go into so much fantasy," he said.

Medieval jewel sells for record \$2m

LONDON (AP) — A 13th-century gold pendant found in a field by an amateur treasure hunter was sold Thursday for £1.43 million (\$2 million), a record price for a medieval object. Sotheby's auctioneers said. The pendant, known as the Middleham Jewel because it was found near King Richard III's Middleham Castle in the north England county of Yorkshire, was bought by a private collector who insisted on remaining anonymous, said Sotheby's spokeswoman Fiona Ford. The fine art auction house had expected the jewel, which is 2.5 inches (6.5 cm) in height and 2 inches (5.9 cm) wide, to fetch between £200,000 and £300,000 (\$284,000 and \$426,000). "But here you have something about which you really can use the word 'unique'... it is very, very hard to estimate a correct price," said Ms. Ford.

Son evicts father, sister from home

ORANGE, California (AP) — A family feud that has dragged on for three decades culminated with a man evicting his 81-year-old father and one of the father's nine daughters from their home. Felipe Vaca Hernandez won the court order several weeks ago from Orange County municipal court Judge Richard W. Stanford, who ruled Luis Vaca Gallardo owed his son \$2,620 in rent for the three-bedroom home. County marshals executed the eviction order peacefully, said Lt. Mike Corona. The feud has pitted Gallardo and daughter Lucille Gallardo against Hernandez and eight of Gallardo's other daughters. Gallardo argued that his son was refusing the rent in an effort to have him kicked out so the house could be leased at a higher price. In 1951, Gallardo's ex-wife deeded the house to their son in appreciation for his help in raising the family, said Hernandez's lawyer, Richard Politski. But Gallardo said his son got the house in return for a promise to take care of him in his old age. Gallardo moved back into the house in 1976, 22 years after he and his wife divorced.

Mubarak hands back French cannon

PARIS (R) — President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt gave President Francois Mitterrand a French cannon which went down with the transport ship *Patriote* during Napoleon's 1798 expedition to Egypt. The two-tonne cannon was rescued from the sea bed by a Franco-Egyptian team of divers and will be put on show at Paris's Ecole Polytechnique College. Brought to Paris in a tank of sea water to prevent corrosion, the cannon was encased in a sealed box for the handing-over ceremony. In return, Mitterrand offered the Egyptian leader a globe map of the earth.

Montefiore's carriage burned

TEL AVIV (AP) — A luxurious nineteenth century carriage once belonging to a British Jewish philanthropist was set on fire and burned to ashes, a Jerusalem police spokesman has said. The carriage belonged to Sir Moses Montefiore, who funded Jewish building projects and charitable institutions in Palestine in the last century. It had been put on permanent display in a windmill which Montefiore built for the first Jewish neighbourhood located outside the walls of the old city. "Our findings clearly point to arson," said the spokesman Rafi Levi. "We are continuing the investigation." Levi said the fire broke out at about 3:30 a.m. local time (1:30 GMT) and that the firemen who arrived shortly afterwards found only ashes and pieces of wood. The sumptuous carriage with its golden arabesque and personal coat of arms, was driven by six horses. Montefiore used it to travel between London and his home town of Ramsay.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEIBER
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PLAY IT SAFE, SAM

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

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♥ A K 3

♦ A J 7

♣ A K Q 10

WEST

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